

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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Vol III No 069

10 April 1986

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CRITICISM OF U.S. TEST BAN REFUSAL CONTINUES

PRAVDA Recalls History of Issue

PM091438 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[Article by N. Prozogin: "Nuclear Tests Must Be Banned. The Goodwill of the USSR and Washington's Irresponsible Course"]

[Text] The world has entered a stage of its development where new approaches to questions of international security are essential. We can no longer think in terms of the past, because now it is a question not only of the preservation of peace but also of mankind's survival.

Yes, mankind has reached a point that demands the utmost responsibility on the part of each and everyone, and primarily, of course, from the leaders of powers possessing nuclear weapons.

It is still not too late to stop the nuclear arms race. But the first major step in this direction must be taken without delay. Such a step could be the cessation of nuclear tests by everyone -- starting with the Soviet Union and the United States, but also other nuclear powers. M.S. Gorbachev once again urgently called for this when speaking recently on Soviet television.

The wise tale by the Dane Hans Christian Andersen, "The Emperor's New Clothes," is popular throughout the world. However, even the wisest parables do not benefit everyone. High-ranking figures in the present Washington administration, who, it is to be hoped, also read Andersen in their childhood, have sewn the splendid attire of peacemakers out of words and arrayed themselves in it, supposing that they can thereby conceal their militarist nudity from the world. And they have found themselves in the position of the naked emperor.

On 22 March the United States carried out another nuclear explosion and, to all appearances, intends to repeat the test in the immediate future. This blatant challenge has been thrown down not only to our country, but to all peoples, including the American people, who urgently demand that nuclear testing be stopped.

If these tests were to be stopped everywhere, this would signify a real step in the direction of curbing the nuclear arms race. It is a secret to no one that they serve to perfect and improve new forms and types of mass destruction weapons even more dangerous than those already in existence. Conversely ceasing tests would signify the automatic "ageing" of nuclear weapons. Also obvious is the fact that nuclear explosions cause great damage, the extent of which is not yet fully known, to the environment in which mankind lives. The problem of ceasing nuclear testing has its own, already long history. It is useful to recall the basic stages of this history.

As early as 1955 the Soviet Union appealed to all states possessing atomic and hydrogen weapons to pledge to cease testing these weapons. The stand taken by the Western powers was negative. But the Soviet Union continued to expend efforts to achieve this aim. They had decisive significance for the conclusion in 1963 of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water. Let us note that even then the USSR was in favor of stopping all tests, including those underground, but the United States, Britain, and France refused.

The persistent, consistent policy of the Soviet Union led to treaties being signed between our country and the United States in 1974 and 1975, the first of which limited the size of underground nuclear explosions. It is not our fault that both these treaties remained unratified.

It is indicative that in the very interim period between the signing of these documents -- in 1975 -- the overwhelming majority of states of the world supported the Soviet draft multiparty treaty on a total ban on nuclear tests that was submitted for discussion by the UN General Assembly. However, it was rejected by those on whom this matter primarily depended.

In 1977, again on a Soviet initiative, tripartite negotiations began between the USSR, the United States, and Britain to work out a treaty on a complete and general ban on nuclear weapon tests. Considerable progress had already been made during the talks when, in 1980, the United States, followed by Britain, refused to continue them. Thus, through the fault of the Western powers, primarily the United States, the problem of stopping nuclear explosions remained unsolved.

Then last summer the Soviet Union took an extremely important step. Recognizing the great responsibility that rests with the nuclear powers and demonstrating the practical political will necessary to solve present buring problems, the USSR announced a unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions, be they for military or peaceful purposes. The date the moratorium was introduced -- 6 August, the 40th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima -- is symbolic, in the highest sense of this word. It was to remain in effect until 1 January 1986. Urging the United States to do the same, the USSR simultaneously announced that the moratorium would remain in force even longer if the United States for its part also refrained from carrying out nuclear explosions.

This was a real step in a direction leading to our planet being cleansed of nuclear weapons. It is obvious that, once it has become mutual for the two largest nuclear powers, the moratorium would serve as a good example for other states possessing these weapons and would create favorable conditions for concluding an international treaty on a complete and general ban on nuclear weapon tests.

The results of the Soviet-American summit meeting in Geneva and the hopeful joint statement prompted the USSR to take another goodwill step -- the unilateral Soviet moratorium was extended until 31 March 1986. A special section of the 15 January statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, containing an integrated program to rid mankind of mass destruction weapons was devoted to the task of stopping nuclear explosions.

After a certain degree of confusion and an awkward attempt to declare the Soviet moratorium a "propaganda trick," Washington refused to follow the Soviet example and announced that it would continue nuclear explosions. According to a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES, high-ranking officials in charge of arms control problems have said that "objections must be raised as before against any moratorium on testing, as nuclear weapons age in exactly the same way as their creators do, and their efficiency at any given moment can be verified only with the aid of tests." An example of militarist logic!

However, the universal approval, including in the United States itself, of the step taken by the Soviet Union and the hopes it has inspired throughout the world of freeing mankind from the nuclear threat have forced Washington to seek arguments to justify its course of continuing nuclear tests and, consequently, the nuclear arms race itself. Two such "arguments" have been put forward.

The first amounts to the fact that the United States is supposedly lagging behind the Soviet Union in the nuclear weapons sphere and that is why, they say, they must continue improving these weapons by conducting new tests. Meanwhile it is well known that the United States has carried out considerably more nuclear tests than the USSR. Thus, according to statistics from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute, at the time the Soviet moratorium was announced the United States had carried out approximately one-third more nuclear explosions than the USSR and, together with other nuclear powers in the West -- 1.5 times more.

It is not, however, a question of arithmetic. In making the decision on a unilateral moratorium the Soviet Union was guided by principled political considerations. For us it is not a question of a breathing space between explosions but of contributing to a complete and general cessation of nuclear weapon tests.

The second "argument," according to which it would supposedly be impossible to monitor observance of a ban on nuclear tests, is utterly false. Highly qualified specialists, including American specialists, confirm that scientific and technical means available not only in the USSR and the United States, but also in other countries, give the necessary degree of confidence that a nuclear explosion, even of small yield, be detected. Convincing evidence of this was the Soviet Union's announcement of information on a scheduled American nuclear explosion carried out on 17 August last year: yield of less than 20 kilotons, a 330 meter deep silo 120 km northwest of Las Vegas. Claims by American politicians concerning the ineffectiveness of national monitoring means were thereby once again clearly refuted.

The Soviet Union has said more than once that, in conformity with a ban on nuclear tests, monitoring could be ensured both by national technical means and with the aid of international procedures -- in necessary cases also with on-site inspection. The USSR has proposed to the American side that an agreement be reached on granting the opportunity to observers from both sides, on a mutual basis and in accordance with corresponding requirements, to visit the sites of indeterminate phenomena in order to eliminate possible doubts as to whether they are connected with nuclear explosions. The Soviet Union is also agreeable to both itself and the United States using assistance in verification, including the on-site inspection proposed by the leaders of six countries -- Argentina, India, Mexico, Tanzania, Sweden, and Greece.

One month remained until the expiration of the extended Soviet moratorium when the leaders of the six aforementioned countries put to M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan a new urgent appeal not to sanction any nuclear tests before the Soviet-American summit meeting. The six leaders, who are the heads of states situated on different continents and belonging to the groups of nonaligned, neutral, and even NATO countries, had every reason to state: "We are sure that this would be regarded throughout the world as evidence that you both are prepared at this meeting to draw practical conclusions from your joint statement in Geneva that 'nuclear war must never be unleashed and there can be no victors in such a war.'"

The ideas on universal security without nuclear weapons that they expressed in their message are highly consonant with the concept, put forward at the 27th CPSU Congress, of forming an all-embracing international security system, one of the principled bases of which must be the total and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons.

Replying to this message, M.S. Gorbachev announced: "The Soviet Union will not conduct nuclear explosions even after 31 March -- until the first nuclear explosion in the United States."

And what was Washington's response? Without waiting for the extended Soviet moratorium to expire, the United States conducted the explosion of a nuclear device at a testing ground in Nevada, and now it is preparing for another. It also rejected, out of hand as they say, the USSR's new peace initiative delivered on 29 March by the Soviet leader, who proposed, in particular, meeting the U.S. President in the near future to reach an agreement on the question of stopping nuclear tests. The United States is thereby openly demonstrating its reluctance to make use of a real opportunity to halt the qualitative arms race in its most dangerous area. What is more, the continuation of nuclear explosions is openly connected in the United States with realization of the "star wars" program and with the development of space-based strike weapons.

Under these conditions the Soviet Union has had every reason to resume its own nuclear tests. It cannot extend its unilateral moratorium indefinitely. By not conducting any nuclear explosions -- either for testing or for peaceful purposes -- for more than 8 months, our country has already incurred costs in both the military and economic respects.

But the Soviet Union is true to its word. Even after the expiration of the Soviet moratorium on 31 March our country will not conduct nuclear explosions. So it will be in the future if the United States takes similar action. If the reverse should be the case, and this must be clear to all, the USSR will be forced to resume its own tests as our country cannot forgo either its own security or that of its allies.

However, the Soviet leadership has nevertheless expressed the hope that the U.S. President, his closest associates, and the American Congress alike will still consider the USSR's proposal to conclude an agreement on stopping nuclear explosions.

It is Washington's fault that the fate of mankind is now under real threat. And the peoples -- of this there is no doubt -- will continue to step up their struggle to stop all nuclear weapon tests and conclude a treaty on a complete and general ban on such tests.

'Top Priority' Discussion

LD091615 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 8 Apr 86

["Top Priority" roundtable program hosted by Vladimir Posner, with Dr. Radomir Bogdanov and Dr Sergey Plekhanov of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of the United States of America and Canada]

[Text] [Posner] (?We) proposed that the test ban would last until the end of the year, from the 6th August when it was announced to the 31st January 1986. But if the United States would join, then it would become permanent. The United States did not join, and in January the Soviet Government reannounced its decision to prolong (?its) test ban until the 31st March 1986, and again invited the United States to join so as to make it a permanent test ban on all nuclear tests as the first step toward capping the arms race and as a major step towards disarmament. The United States has clearly refused.

[Bogdanov] You know...

[Posner, interrupting] Professor Bogdanov.

[Bogdanov] Vladimir, my reaction is rather a sad one, because I have no hope that this administration is really able to produce any dramatic (?change).

They are just paralyzed by one idea, to go ahead with nuclear testing for gaining superiority over the Soviet Union. Now, if you read their statements -- official statements, semi-official statements, explanations and so on -- you will see the truth, and the truth is that this administration is in very great need to improve their nuclear capability, to create, develop and test new nuclear war (?acts).

[Posner] I'd like to interrupt.

[Bogdanov] That's number one.

[Posner] I want to interrupt you because you say this administration, meaning the Reagan administration, is in need to develop. Now, you use the word need. What do you mean by that?

[Bogdanov] (?Here) I deliberately, I deliberately used this word; they are really in need, they need it, because if you have a policy of nuclear superiority, then you need to improve always, always improve your warheads, your nuclear capability. That's why you are in need; that's why I mean by that.

[Posner] But they mean something different. They, they say that we have superiority. You've heard them say that we're ahead of them.

[Bogdanov] You know that's a very old story, and there's no bit of truth in that. You know, as to the number of nuclear tests, we have one-third less than they had, and if you add to that the nuclear tests of American allies, you will see that almost two-and-a-half or three times more they had nuclear tests. Then you know you have, you have another very important point. They say that what we are proposing, what we are suggesting, subjecting [words indistinct]. We don't mean that. We have been offering them several times; please, for heaven's sake stop the nuclear arms race. We give you very good chance. It is in interests of both parties to stop testing. If they call it propaganda, OK, let it be propaganda; I'm for that propaganda, I'm for that propaganda. But within the meaning, we, we've been insisting on that. (?Though) they say -- you know for instance, I met several days ago some rather important Americans. They were telling me: Look, you Soviets from the very beginning, you were sure that the President will not accept your offer, but still you have suggested that he should accept it. So you would like to put our President in an awkward position. I don't see any logic in that. You know, if you have to keep in mind, you know, the President's stature as a statesman, that's one thing, but if you have in mind something very substantial [word indistinct] (?security of vodka).

[Posner] Some national interest?

[Bogdanov] National interest something, something else, you know. Then we witness now, you know, we witness now a very very dangerous situation. You, we, witness if you like, it's a kind of historical event. You witness the (?looming) of another nuclear arms race.

[Posner] A new spiral?

[Bogdanov] (?With) a new spiral of the nuclear arms race. We have offered to our American counterparts, please stop it; we are ready to do whatever is necessary for that, including all the verification procedures. We open ourselves; we invite you to discuss the procedure, all the details connected with verification, but stop it. They say no! They (?said) three times no to us. Now they resume. What does it mean? It means they [are] resuming (?a) nuclear arms race.

[Posner] Professor Bogdanov, just excuse me one minute. I'd like to ask your colleague, Professor Plekhanov, I'd like to pick up on what you said about the American side treating our proposals as propaganda, calling it propaganda. You said that that's OK with us because if that's propaganda that's fine. But you know that the American meaning of propaganda is really to state one thing while to be doing something else. Now, what I wanted to ask you, Professor Plekhanov, is do you believe that American officialdom is sincere when it calls our offer to have a permanent test ban propaganda?

[Plekhanov] Well, that's just an old trick; whatever is unacceptable to you, you will call propaganda.

[Posner] I won't.

[Plekhanov] No, no, no. I mean, this, this is (?a) trick which the U.S. Government always, often, uses and I think it can be seen through very clearly. I think that the moratorium which we observed, the unilateral moratorium...

[Posner] You're using the past tense.

[Plekhanov] Which we have observed...

[Posner, interrupting] We're still observing it.

[Plekhanov] We're still observing it as of this moment, is, was, a very worthwhile policy and is something which I think will go down in history as an important contribution to the cause of disarmament. You may call it, people may call it propaganda or anything else but the fact is that the Soviet Union unilaterally refrained from testing its nuclear weapons and any other nuclear devices in the face of a continuing military buildup by the United States, in the face of new arms programs being pushed by the U.S. Administration, in the face of very provocative policies, steps, and gestures by the other side. I believe that by doing that, the Soviet Union demonstrates that it is seriously committed to a new kind of an approach to the problem of security. We are convinced that really the arms race is in nobody's interests, in nobody's best interests. It is in the interests of some very narrow and narrow-minded groups in the U.S., groups in the U.S. society; very influential, very dangerous, but still minority groups which have been able to foist their agenda on the U.S. Government and on the United States as a whole.

[Bogdanov] No, no, no, I don't agree, Sergey, with one point of yours, that they are (?foisting) their agenda on the U.S. Government. My point is that this government has the same agenda, you know [words indistinct] because there are no...

[Plekhanov, interrupting] Because there are no...

[Posner, interrupting] Allow me to get back to what I was asking originally. Are you saying, then, that when official America calls Soviet proposals propaganda, that same official American knows very well that those offers are not propaganda and that the Soviet Union is quite serious in what it (?has proposed)?

[Plekhanov] Oh, I think if, if they have not, have not lost their last touch with reality, if they are able to see things as they are, they must be aware that we are sincerely interested in stopping the arms race, stopping the development of new kinds of weapons, and engaging (?in) this kind of competition. But the problem is that when they see that, they see it as a kind of a sign of weakness on the Soviet part.

They push forward a proposition that well, the Soviet Union is doing that because it knows it can't compete with the United States in the arms race, because it's allegedly technologically not on a par with the United States because economically GNP is smaller and productivity is lower, and so on and so forth. Thus if it is, if, you know it's zero (?sum game) logic. If something, if there is something that the Russians are putting forward, (?the) Russians support, then that must be against the interests of the United States, and the United States should be doing just the opposite. But this ridiculous, and totally irrelevant logic, which has been defeated so many times in the past, will not succeed this time (?even) because this arms race is dangerous to both sides.

[Posner] You know, some of the liberals, the more liberal segments of the U.S. Congress, have been calling upon the President to accept the Soviet offer, and one of those gentlemen has said that the Soviets have seemed to agree to the possibility of on-site verification. Let's call their bluff, I'm now quoting him, let's call their bluff and see whether or not they are indeed open to that. Now again I want to ask you, first of all, is the Soviet willingness, at least in words, to accept on-site verification a bluff?

[Bogdanov] Well let them really test it.

[Posner] Uh-huh.

[Bogdanov] Because I, I'm afraid that we have no, in the Russian language or even in English, vocabulary, enough convincing words to convince these people in this administration that this is not a bluff. OK, if (?you conceive there to be) a bluff let's get together around a table on experts level, on any level, and let's open our cards.

We are ready to do that, and as to on-site inspection problems we are very much willing to discuss, very much willing, and let me remind you Vladimir by the way as to the verification problem, as a fact we are in that in much much you know inferior position than the Americans. Less advantageous position than the Americans. The Soviet Union has been surrounded by 200, (?mind you), by 200 capabilities if you like, checkpoints, American checkpoints monitoring from different (?distances) and in some cases in very very nearby distance what's going on in the Soviet territory.

But we have only 20 checkpoints, only 20, mind you which are very long distance from the American territory. So we are in less advantageous position but still we say OK, we are open, we are open. Come over, let's discuss if you like on the parallel with discussing how to stop testing; if you like, separately, whatever, whatever (?it is). But you know, so far we hear from the American side only accusations, only bad words about Soviet propaganda, but we don't hear any concrete proposals. OK, let's get together and let's discuss it. That's why I say OK, if it is a bluff, let's test it.

[Posner] Eight months ago, 8 months and 2 days ago to be exact, when the Soviet Union first announced and began to adhere to a unilateral test ban, the door was was open to what looked to many people, including myself, a real step toward capping the arms race because stopping testing means effectively stopping development of any new kind of nuclear weapon.

[Bogdanov] You're right.

[Posner] The fact that this has gone on for 8 months I think is quite indicative of the Soviet position. The fact that the United States has consistently refused to join is, I also think, indicative of the present administration's position.

Looking back, let us say 20 years from now, hopefully if there are people who can, who will be able to look back 20 years from now, what do you think, how do you think they will assess the historic role of the two governments, of the two countries, at this period in time?

[Plekhanov] Well, I think the contrast, historic contrast between the two positions will be (?recorded) in history. I don't think that the current situation is, should be seen, as cause for despondency. The fact that the Ronald, that the Reagan administration demonstrated its unwillingness to join with us in (?the) search for new approaches to security need not discourage those people who are interested in such a search. And I think that we have a majority of the world public, including the majority of Americans on our side, in this quest for more rational approaches to security and I don't think that the struggle is over. If we go back 20 years from this moment, and [words indistinct] 25 years and recall the events of the late fifties and early sixties, there are some similarities. There was a moratorium then and then it was discontinued and the testing resumed, and that created a great deal of public concern and displeasure over the whole situation, and that created the favorable climate of opinion for the conclusion of a test ban, partial test ban of 1963.

[Posner] So what you're saying is that the fact that this particular test ban has not been accepted, should not be read as the bottom line?

[Plekhanov] No, no, of course not.

[Bogdanov] No, it is (?not). I agree with Sergey's analysis. It is not the bottom line. But what worries me, you know, to be frank with you, not history's judgment; maybe it's important, but really what worries me (?is if the future) is lost, or maybe, maybe -- a historical (?chance), you know, a real chance to (?cap) the arms race in a very simple and very (?efficient way); that's what worries me now.

[Posner] I think that worries everybody. I would only like to qualify your statement, if you'll allow me to. I don't think we have lost; because that's the wrong pronoun. I believe that the other side has, if you wish, drowned, destroyed, lost indeed an opportunity that would lead to capping the arms race.

[Bogdanov] When I say we I mean both, because we are so much interconnected, interlinked, that that's another case, you know, when it'll work for them and also work for us.

[Plekhanov] And for anybody else.

[Bogdanov] And the rest of the world.

[Posner] Thank you very much, Professor Bogdanov, Professor Plekhanov. Until the next time, this is Vladimir Posner saying good-bye for "Top Priority."

Chervov Interview

AU100752 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 8 Apr 86 p 6

[Interview with Colonel General Nikolay Chervov, chief of a directorate at the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, by APN military commentator V. Morozov: "Key to the Door Into a Nuclear-Free World; Once Again on the Problem of a Nuclear Test Ban;" date and place not given]

[Text] [Morozov] In his television address Mikhail Gorbachev reiterated that the Soviet Union would not carry out nuclear tests even after 31 March, as long as the United States does not carry out a nuclear explosion of its own. How can this highly responsible approach of the USSR to the problem of a nuclear test ban be appreciated?

[Chervov] It was not at all easy to adopt such a decision. The USSR cannot show one-sided restraint in the area of nuclear tests indefinitely. By having refrained for 8 months from any nuclear tests -- both experimental and for peaceful purposes -- we have already permitted a certain delay to arise in the military and national economic areas. The measure of responsibility for exploiting all possibilities of achieving a practical step on the path toward liquidating nuclear weapons is too big.

The USSR regards the discontinuation of all tests of nuclear weapons as one of the most important elements of establishing an all-encompassing system of international security, the fundamental principles of which were formulated by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Nuclear tests are kind of an accelerator of the nuclear arms race. The tests help to verify new kinds and types of these mass destruction weapons and to perfect their existing systems. An end to tests would be an effective measure to significantly slow down this entire process. The nuclear arms race without tests has in reality meanwhile become an impossibility. There in lies the meaning of the USSR's policy, which is aimed at a complete and general ban on nuclear arms tests.

An end to tests also represents a path leading toward the liquidation of already amassed nuclear arsenals. Without tests there can be no modernization of existing nuclear weapons, which will as a result gradually lose their efficiency and, ultimately, they will have to perish. This would be a reliable guarantee of averting a nuclear war.

In its consistent endeavor to attain this goal, our country more than 30 years ago, as early as 1955, appealed to all states possessing nuclear weapons with the proposal that they undertake to stop testing these weapons. Unfortunately, because of the negative attitude of Western powers, this proposal did not materialize.

However, the Soviet Union continued to exert efforts in this direction, which played the decisive role in bringing about the conclusion in 1963 of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, banning nuclear arms tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water. It must be stressed that even at that time the USSR fought for an end to all testing, including underground tests. The United States, Great Britain, and France, however, did not accept this. That is why the task of completely halting nuclear arms has remained unresolved to date.

Certain progress in this area was achieved when in 1974 the USSR and the United States signed an agreement limiting the yield of underground nuclear arms tests, and in 1976 an agreement regulating nuclear tests for peaceful purposes. Through the fault of the United States, these agreements have remained unratified.

Even in those years the USSR strove for a complete and general ban on nuclear arms tests. In 1975, immediately after the signing of the Soviet-American so-called "threshold" agreement, we submitted to the UN General Assembly the draft of a multilateral agreement on a complete ban on nuclear tests. The absolute majority of states backed this proposal, except for those, naturally, on which its realization primarily depended.

A general end to nuclear arms tests remains the Soviet Union's aim. Today, more than ever before, there is need for practical measures to break the vicious circle of the arms race.

An end to nuclear arms tests is precisely one such important measure. The best thing would be, of course, if all nuclear powers proceeded in this way. And if the United States followed the example of the Soviet Union, this would set an example for other states having nuclear weapons as well. In the final analysis, this is a problem, the solution of which corresponds to the longings and vital interests of all nations.

[Morozov] Some U.S. officials claim that by advocating an end to nuclear arms tests the USSR strives to consolidate its previously attained "supremacy" over the United States in the area of the development and perfection of nuclear weapons. How would you respond to these claims?

[Chervov] Nothing is further from truth than the claim that the USSR has an edge in the area of nuclear arms tests. Facts bear out that the opposite is true. According to data of the Stockholm Peace Institute and some American organizations, the United States has since 1945 carried out more nuclear blasts than all the world's nuclear powers put together. It has carried out one-third more nuclear blasts than the USSR and, together with other Western powers, 1.5 times as many.

In every individual environment, the United States has carried out more nuclear blasts than the USSR (in the atmosphere, underground, and under water). It holds first place in the intensity of explosions (with 96 blasts in 1962). In 1985 the United States carried out 18 blasts (compared with 9 blasts for the USSR, before the introduction of the moratorium, 2 of which were for peaceful purposes). These are the statistics. That is why those who claim that an end to nuclear tests would buttress the USSR's one-sided advantage in the military sphere in reality want to keep alive for the United States the possibility of perfecting and developing new types of nuclear weapons and, hence, of continuing the arms race.

[Morozov] So far the United States has been refusing to discontinue nuclear tests, using all kinds of pretexts. What is, in your opinion, the real aim behind this refusal?

[Chervov] This is a justified question. At the last UN General Assembly session 120 states 4 times voted in favor of a resolution demanding an end to nuclear arms tests. Even the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress has expressed itself in principle in favor of an end to nuclear tests. Yet the U.S. Administration feels no remorse in the face of such an unequivocal condemnation of its position. In a letter to the Senate of 12 March the U.S. President reaffirmed the previous position of the administration with regard to the issue of the complete and general ban on nuclear tests -- neither the introduction of a moratorium on nuclear explosions nor the ratification of the agreements of 1974 and 1976 on the limitation of nuclear explosions "correspond to the interests of the United States and its allies." Washington wants to carry on nuclear explosions.

[Morozov] What is the reason for unwillingness of the White House to respond to the Soviet moratorium by the same token?

[Chervov] The main reason is that the U.S. Administration has not given up its attempts to break the existing parity and change it in its favor. This is the aim of the programs for new types of weapons (MX intercontinental missiles, Trident-2, Midgetman, nuclear missiles for offensive space devices according to the "star wars" plan). In an interview for the HINDUSTAN TIMES of 16 December 1985, Mr Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, declared: "The United States will continue nuclear testing because it helps to develop newer and more reliable types of nuclear weapons." It is really impossible to express this in clearer terms.

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C. Weinberger, representative of the Pentagon, flatly declared: "As long as nuclear weapons exist, which will be the case in the near future, these weapons will have to be tested." In other words, the White House policy is the development of ever newer weapons systems and an endless arms race.

The end to nuclear explosions is a key that opens the door to a nuclear-free world. That is why the world public relies on the great responsibility that the United States bears for international security and on the common sense and goodwill of the American people and expects that they will give a constructive reply to the appeal for an end to nuclear tests and their support to the unilateral Soviet moratorium.

'Verbal Subterfuge' Noted

PM041035 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr Morning Edition p 5

[Text] Geneva, 3 Apr -- A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Utilization of Atomic Energy, today spoke to participants in the Geneva Disarmament Conference. Dwelling on the question of banning all nuclear explosions, the eminent Soviet scientist once again emphasized that the Soviet Union is prepared to extend the moratorium that it imposed 8 months ago, even beyond 31 March, if the United States will also refrain from carrying out nuclear tests. However, Washington, without taking regard of world public opinion, carried out an explosion on 22 March, and according to existing information is preparing for a subsequent explosion in April. "This means that the extremely favorable situation that has arisen as a result of the unilateral Soviet moratorium will not be taken advantage of, the arms race will proceed at an ever increasing rate, and the threat of a nuclear catastrophe will grow even stronger. It is the position of the United States, which places its stakes on force and increasing its nuclear might, which is forcing us on this path," A. Petrosyants said, noting that the Soviet Union, as he had already said, cannot proceed forever along a path of unilateral measures while disregarding the interests of its own security and that of its allies.

Washington, as far as the verbal subterfuge and false proposals of the U.S. side on this question are concerned, is merely trying to create a semblance of activity while shying away from specific commitments. Such actions clearly demonstrate the unwillingness of the United States to use this convenient opportunity to stop the nuclear arms race, and its stubborn desire to prevent a positive change in Soviet-U.S. relations.

The Soviet representative authoritatively stated that proper [polnotsenny] monitoring of ending nuclear tests is no problem at the present time. The one thing that must be done is to sit down at the conference table and reach an agreement on the technical details. The Soviet Union is ready for such talks, including talks within the framework of the disarmament conference.

TASS' Ponomarev Comments

LD091636 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS -- TASS commentator Leonid Ponomarev, writes: A protest demonstration took place in the area of the testing site in Nevada Tuesday against continued nuclear testing there. It was held under the motto: "The Soviet Union has stopped nuclear blasts. Why doesn't the U.S.?"

The Washington administration's reaction was to send police to disperse the protesters. According to UPI, more than 80 demonstrators were arrested. But is it possible to arrest all those opposed to the policy of nuclear madness fraught with the threat of a catastrophe?

Public protests against nuclear testing have swept U.S. cities. The municipalities of Boston, Atlanta, Newark, Sacramento, Detroit, Honolulu, Providence and many other cities as well as the legislatures of the states of New York, Washington, and Hawaii have passed special resolutions urging a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Most Americans see it as a real possibility to fend off the threat of a nuclear catastrophe. Twenty-five U.S. Nobel Prize holders have called on President Reagan not to miss the historic opportunity available now to end nuclear testing for all time.

The historic opportunity has not emerged by itself. It is not only a result of an indepth and all-round analysis of the world situation but also a consequence of the Soviet Union's practical measures towards removing the nuclear threat, which have been adopted on the basis of this analysis.

Today it is needed to make a first step or, as wise men used to say in the past, "at first to catch even the smallest imp and the latter will show where the chief devil is hiding". Such a step, as the Soviet Union suggests, should be the termination of nuclear tests by all, starting with the USSR and the United States.

Significantly, the Soviet Union is prepared to discuss not only its own proposal for an end to nuclear explosions but also the U.S. proposal for verifying it. Both sides have set forth their attitudes to the problem. It is now needed to work out an agreement rather than carry on nuclear weapons tests.

From Washington, however, signals are coming that another nuclear blast in Nevada is inevitable and should be expected almost as early as within the next few hours. This blast, according to THE WASHINGTON POST, is to be followed by others.

Why the hurry? There are no sensible reasons for it. Nor can there be. It is just that a feverish effort is under way to develop new kinds of nuclear weapons.

The Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva has kindled hope, although there have been "prophets" claiming it has not meant more than "a change of boxing gloves". Such a "sport", however, is alien to Soviet policy since a 'nuclear boxing bout' will mean the destruction of mankind.

The Soviet leadership believes that it is not yet too late to stop the nuclear arms race. But it is imperative without delay to take a first significant step towards this aim. The USSR has made it and observed a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions for more than eight months now.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS NEVADA TEST POSTPONEMENT

PM101251 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Apr 86 Second Edition p 1

[TASS dispatch: "An Extensive Program"]

[Text] Washington, 9 Apr -- The new nuclear explosion scheduled by the Reagan administration to be carried out at the Nevada test site on 8 April was postponed for "technical reasons," the UPI news agency was told by Department of Energy spokesmen.

They explained that the postponement was caused by "high winds that would have carried the dust cloud raised by the explosion toward populated areas," and they emphasized that the test will be carried out "as soon as the weather permits." According to official circles, THE WASHINGTON POST writes, two more U.S. underground nuclear explosions are to be carried out this month with the aim of emphasizing the administration's determination to proceed with the planned program of nuclear tests. One of these tests, code-named "Jefferson," is scheduled for 23-24 April. According to ABC, the administration plans to carry out a total of 14 nuclear tests this year, not counting the one that has already been carried out.

EUROPEAN NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE ISSUE VIEWED

Professor Interviewed

PM091130 Copenhagen AKTUELT in Danish 29 Mar 86 p 12

[Interview with Yuriy Andreyev, director of the Moscow Institute for World Economy and International Relations, Center for West European Studies, by Michael Kjaergard: "A Nuclear-Free Zone Is a Step on the Road Toward a Nuclear-Free World" -- date and place not given]

[Text] "All nuclear-free zones are part of a nuclear-free world. And a nuclear-free world is our policy. Nuclear-free zones are a means of achieving this."

This was the simple description given by Soviet Prof Yuriy Andreyev of the philosophy behind the Soviet Union's interest in working together with others to have the Nordic area, for example, declared a nuclear-free zone.

Yuriy Andreyev is not just any Soviet academic, but a person with not insignificant influence on the Soviet view of the world outside the Soviet Union. Yuriy Andreyev has, for example, held talks with several Danish politicians. He is chief of the Center for West European Studies at the Institute for World Economy and International Relations in Moscow. Yuriy Andreyev summed up the Soviet approach to world peace as follows:

"There is no rational alternative to detente. Real detente -- not only peaceful coexistence, but cooperation. Detente is after all not the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal is collective security.

"The Soviet Union is interested in increased economic security and cooperation as a basis for disarmament. Security is not only military, but also economic and political. The more economic cooperation there is, the less thoughts move in the direction of confrontation," Yuriy Andreyev said, reminding me of the three-phase proposal for the abolition of all nuclear arms put forward by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in January.

"It is in this light that Gorbachev's proposal should be seen. We want to create a changed way of thinking. Everyone must think nonaggressively. We must survive together or meet destruction together."

He is supported by Prof Konstantin Voronov of the Institute's department for Scandinavian affairs. "The Soviet Union sees nuclear-free zones as stabilizing elements. In the current arms race something paradoxical is happening -- the military element is being played down, while the political element is growing."

"Seen in this light a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic area would strengthen the political opportunities in security policy. For if we take a realistic view, the Nordic countries would have no chance of defending themselves against any major power."

Another semi-official Soviet source, PRAVDA foreign editor Tomas Kolesnichenko, supported this view:

"Arming the Nordic countries with nuclear arms would not be a real threat to the Soviet Union. But it would be a symbolic threat." In the same breath Tomas Kolesnichenko added that "it goes without saying" that the Soviet Union will not launch nuclear attacks on countries that do not themselves possess nuclear arms.

"One of the eternal objections to the idea of making the Nordia area a nuclear-free zone is that the Nordic area is already and actual nuclear-free zone. Why then enshrine this status in a treaty?" Yuriy Andreyev asked, and provided the answer himself.

"Because de facto zones are in danger of not being respected. We saw this during the USS Iowa's visit to Copenhagen, for example. Such incidents are not good for de facto status. And therefore there is a need for the legalization of the de facto status."

"There are of course many details attaching to the question of a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic area. Should Iceland belong to such a zone? Should the Baltic be part of it? These are important details, but nevertheless only details which can and should be discussed by military and economic experts. These discussions simply need to be set in motion. This is important. The debate could very well include certain steps from the Soviet side and on Soviet territory. But such things must be discussed formally, that is, in a legalized manner. Not only unofficially," Yuriy Andreyev stressed.

The question of whether the Baltic should be included in a nuclear-free zone will have significance for the six nuclear-armed submarines the Soviet Union has stationed in the Baltic. However, another Soviet source hinted that this problem will not be as easy to solve as Yuriy Andreyev indicated. The source said that "the Soviet Union is not simply a Nordic country."

AKTUELD: What opportunities will the Nordic countries be given to check that the Soviet Union is complying with its commitments with regard to a Nordic nuclear-free zone?

Yuriy Andreyev: "There are no problems with checks on Soviet territory, if the aim -- note this well -- is disarmament. Actually we are more interested in verification arrangements than the United States is. For we are actually afraid of being cheated."

AKTUELT: It is no secret that a question mark has been put alongside Denmark's chance of remaining in NATO if Denmark joins a Nordic nuclear-free zone.

Yuriy Andreyev: "A nuclear-free zone and the question of whether Denmark and/or Norway should leave NATO or remain in NATO are two different things. We must take as our point of departure the consideration that Denmark is a member of NATO in order to strengthen its security. A nuclear-free zone would also strengthen Denmark's security, so there is no conflict here.

"I know very well that according to the Dyvig report a nuclear-free zone in the Nordic area would conflict with Denmark's NATO membership, but on the other hand the Folketing's 1 May 1984 resolution states that Denmark must do everything to contribute to the creation of a nuclear-free zone," Yuriy Andreyev pointed out.

Levin Commentary

LD092338 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] The foreign press is paying great attention to the message from the Warsaw Pact member-states to the European states, to the United States and Canada on the question of setting up nuclear-free zones in Europe. A latest news commentary. At the microphone is Viktor Levin.

The question of setting up nuclear-free zones in various regions of the European Continent has long been on the agenda. At the initiative of Finland discussion of setting up such a zone in northern Europe has begun. The socialist countries and Greece are in favor of a nuclear-free Balkans. Sweden put forward an interesting idea of setting up in Europe along the line of contiguity of the states of the Warsaw Pact and NATO a corridor free from battlefield nuclear weapons.

I repeat that these ideas are not new. However, this does not at all mean that they are not topical. Now, when the question of averting the threat of nuclear catastrophe is being posed in such an acute manner, the implementation of these ideas could not only considerably improve the European political atmosphere but also become an important step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons that the USSR is calling for so resolutely.

The Warsaw Pact member-states are firmly convinced that the nuclear danger must and can be removed. This conviction also permeates the USSR's striving for the total cessation of the testing of nuclear weapons and the new initiatives put forward by the states of the socialist community aimed at the implementation of the proposals to set up nuclear-free zones in Europe.

At the same time, it must be particularly noted that we not only support a solution to the above-mentioned problems but also propose specific measures to implement them. Thus, in order to reach agreement on an end to nuclear explosions, the USSR unilaterally introduced a moratorium that has been in operation for over 8 months now. In order for nuclear-free zones in Europe to become a reality, the Warsaw Pact member-states call on all countries that participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to take energetic actions and to support the efforts of the initiators of setting up such zones; they express readiness to participate in holding an in-depth and concrete exchange of opinions between interested states and speak out in favor of starting talks on the question of creating a corridor free of battlefield nuclear weapons in central Europe.

We see clearly the difficulties that stand in the way of strengthening peace, the attempts of the imperialist forces not only to maintain but also to deepen confrontation. But this does not discourage us and does not stop us. In the struggle against the nuclear threat we shall act consistently and persistently.

FURTHER ON PEACE GROUPS' VISITS TO U.S. EMBASSY

Television Report

OW100755 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0615 GMT 9 Apr 86

[From an unscheduled Novosti newscast; B. Parkhomenko report; officials identified by screen captions]

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace [SCDP] has visited the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to convey a letter addressed to Ronald Reagan. The letter contains an appeal from our country's public to the U.S. Administration on ending nuclear tests.

[Begin recording] [Parkhomenko] Our delegation -- cosmonaut Georgiy Grechko, poet Rime Kazakova, writer Genrikh Borovik, USSR people's artist Yevgeniy Matveyev, Prof Alla Mosevich, and journalist Vikentiy Matveyev -- was obviously not expected at the U.S. Embassy. [video shows the named individuals entering a building with the Embassy crest over the door]

For over 30 minutes they were kept in a cramped lobby under the care of a Marine. They were not offered a place to sit and were meticulously questioned about the aim of the visit. At first the confused security officer maintained that, other than junior personnel, there was nobody in the embassy: The ambassador, the press attache, the counselors were all absent. [video shows bearded man with bow tie and identity tag talking to Soviet visitors] Eventually one was found -- the counselor for economic affairs, Robert Fairchild Ober Jr. He also hesitated over inviting the Soviet people into the embassy and very reluctantly agreed to convey the petition and letters to the ambassador. [video shows the counselor receiving a folder, cuts to show the delegation leaving the building, then zooms in to show Grechko]

[Grechko] We came today, especially, because there is information that the Americans are about to explode a bomb. But in fact, it is not a bomb that they are exploding, they will explode an entire process of talks, they will explode a real path to peace that had become delineated, a path to disarmament and liberation of the world from nuclear arms.

And now the reception that we have received here once again reiterates that the U.S. Administration and its mission here do not want to heed the voice of the public, and in fact the voice of the entire world, the voice of reason.

[Borovik] I would like to add to what Georgiy Mikhaylovich [Grechko] has said. We asked them: Should we consider then that we are being received only in the dressing room, that we cannot be admitted to the embassy? To this, Mr Ober, this gentleman, said they could not admit us to the embassy because they are afraid of terrorism.

[Parkhomenko, turning to Kazakova] How did you react to the fact that you were taken for an international terrorist? [Grechko laughs]

[Kazakova] No, at first Mr Ober recognized me -- apparently he has read my poems -- and generally I am a very benevolent and normal person. And I think that these iron doors are a kind of iron curtain over the heart.

[Ye. Oskolskiy, SCDP secretary] These days thousands of letters and telegrams from all corners of the country are arriving for our committee. Here are just a few of them -- from the clergy, schoolchildren, workers, kolkhoz workers -- and we wanted to convey, and did convey, some of these letters to the embassy. But the message we handed them addressed to President Reagan expresses the aspirations of all the people who write to us, all the Soviet people.

[Borovik] Of course we would like to see this message handed to the ambassador and would like to have the ambassador convey it to President Reagan. Well...

[Parkhomenko, interrupting] Did you receive any guarantees that it will be delivered to the addressee?

[Borovik] We did not receive any guarantees in this matter. We were told that they will look into this question and will adopt a decision, and we ought to telephone to find out the decision.

[Grechko] For the first time in our lives we saw the real iron curtain [laughter] with the manufacturers' label: Made in America.

[Parkhomenko] Well, I think that negative information is also information, and in any case, one can draw quite a definite conclusion from today's event.

[Borovik] In this regard, today we received very important information. [end recording]

Matveyev Views Reception

PM091524 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by V. Matveyev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace, entitled "Confusion..."]

[Text] U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Tchaikovsky Street; 1030 in the morning, 8 April. Representatives of our public, members of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace R. Kazakova, A. Masevich, G. Borovik, G. Grechko, Ye. Matveyev, and the author of this report arrive at the embassy to hand over an appeal from the committee addressed to President R. Reagan calling on him to end U.S. nuclear tests and join the Soviet moratorium on such tests. In addition to the appeal there are letters from Soviet people addressed to the White House with similar insistent appeals expressing both our and other people's feelings and urging the White House to heed the voice of reason!

We are at the entrance to the embassy. After several minutes an embassy security guard appears. We explain the purpose of our visit and mention that we would like to see the U.S. ambassador or one of the embassy's senior officials. We are asked to wait. We wait. The security guard comes back. He regrets, but the ambassador is not in the building. Nor his deputy. They cannot receive us at the embassy. But the security guard is prepared to accept the appeal and the letters and to pass them on.

Is there no senior official in the embassy to whom we could hand these documents?

The reaction to our question is a request to wait again. So we wait again. The same American comes back. Mr R. Ober, counsellor for economic affairs, comes to meet us.

The conversation begins with Mr Ober telling us that rigorous antiterrorist measures are being applied at his embassy. We do not know how to understand this. Is this the "reason" why they do not want to receive us at the embassy? Mr Ober nods as the Soviet people who have come to see him are introduced. He knows most of them. Genrikh Borovik explains why we have come. He wonders why we could not have been received in a more-- how can he put it -- civilized manner...

Mr Ober says that in his view meetings of this kind are useless because the Soviet press will nonetheless not write anything about the reason why nuclear tests are being continued in the United States.

We leave this claim to the conscience of its author. However, a few days ago IZVESTIYA, for instance, reproduced statements of U.S. officials to the effect that U.S. nuclear weapon tests must continue so that new types of these weapons can be developed.

We hand the committee's appeal and the Soviet people's letters to the U.S. diplomat and take our leave. We will wait for a reply. If there is one, that is.

Youth Delegation Refused Entry

LD091654 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS -- TASS correspondent reports: A Soviet youth delegation was unable to present to the U.S. ambassador in the USSR an appeal of the youth organizations of the USSR to President Reagan. The appeal firmly denounces the stand of the U.S. Administration in the question of nuclear tests. The delegation made of 12 Soviet youth representatives were not received at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

The appeal says that the U.S. Administration pointedly ignores the demands of the peace public to end all nuclear tests and to display a constructive approach to the proposal of the Soviet Union which twice announced extension of the unilateral moratorium on any nuclear tests.

The delegation went to the American Embassy, not far from Moscow's centre, this morning. But they were unable to enter the embassy. After 20 minute-long expectation [as received] near the entrance to the building, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in the USSR John Ordway came out and said that the American side was ready to let in only five Soviet representatives. In reply, the head of the delegation, secretary of the Leninist Young Communist League's Central Committee Vladimir Shaplyko said that the Soviet delegation included 12 representatives of the youth of the country -- workers, peasants, young scientists, students, workers in culture, and they believe that the whole delegation should participate in the talk.

John Ordway repeated that only five persons could enter the building. He added that the room where Soviet representatives were to be received could not take in a bigger number of people (the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is housed in one of the biggest buildings as compared with other diplomatic representations). John Ordway returned to the building three times and came back with the same reply. Vladimir Shaplyko was compelled therefore to present him in the street, near the entrance to the embassy, the appeal of the Soviet youth organisations to the U.S. President.

The matter is certainly not the number of "seats" at the American Embassy, the TASS correspondent has been told by Vladimir Shaplyko, but the American side's unwillingness to heed the voice of the Soviet public, the voice of the people of the whole world, including the American people.

PRAVDA REVIEW OF WEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

PM081112 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[Igor Melnikov "International Review"]

[Text] The congresses of the ruling Marxist-Leninist parties in a number of socialist countries have been an important feature of this spring. The 17th CPCZ Congress was held in a businesslike, working atmosphere toward the end of March. The Bulgarian Communists' 13th Congress was held in Sofia last week. It defined further tasks for socialist building in the fraternal country and revealed the party's ability to set and achieve increasingly large-scale goals of creation.

The CPSU program states that it is an object of special concern to strengthen in every possible way the Soviet Union's friendship with the socialist community countries and to develop and improve ties with these countries. The ruling Communist and workers parties are the driving force behind this all-around cooperation. Every day we live through now confirms their dynamism and strength and their ability to constantly learn from and rely on mutual experience.

The coordinated policy of the USSR and the other socialist community countries is an obstacle in the way of imperialism's intrigues and a guarantee of success in the struggle to preserve peace and remove the nuclear threat hanging over mankind.

Sense of Responsibility

I recall the question that Churchill in January 1953 put to Truman, who was then master of the White House: "Mr President, have you an answer ready for the time when you and I present ourselves before Saint Peter, and he says: 'You are both responsible for dropping the atomic bombs. What can you say in your defense?'"

Atomic bombs are not being dropped on peaceful people on our planet in the mid-eighties. But this does not mean that mankind is not threatened with nuclear catastrophe. The world's peoples heard its echo just 2 weeks ago -- in the explosion at the Nevada test site where the Pentagon tries out new nuclear weapons.

For 8 months now, the Soviet Union has been strictly fulfilling its unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions. During these same 8 months, the United States has not moved a single step closer to solving a problem that is as clear as it is important. On the other hand, it has made considerable efforts to bring its closest allies "into line" ["podravnyat" po svoemu ranzhiru].

As long as the necessary movement in the direction of responsibility and realism is not to be observed among the heads of the leading NATO states, the planet's peace-loving forces must tell the U.S. Administration that its continuation of nuclear tests, despite the truly universal protest, is a demonstrative challenge not only to the Soviet Union but to the whole world and all people, including the American people.

Why, you might wonder, has the USSR now concentrated its efforts on ending nuclear tests? In his Soviet television address, M.S. Gorbachev revealed the tremendous significance of this task. First, ending tests is the most realistic way to end the arms race in general. Without such tests it is impossible either to improve nuclear weapons or to create new types. Second, continuing tests does tremendous harm to nature and the home in which mankind lives.

Finally, we do not have to start from scratch, as it were, in this difficult matter: Test have not been conducted in the atmosphere, under water, or on land for many years now. Nor have there been nuclear explosions in space.

The Soviet leader recalled that, having carefully weighed all the "pros" and "cons," on the 40th anniversary of the tragic bombing of Hiroshima, the USSR advanced in initiative of extraordinary importance -- to end all nuclear explosions for both military and peaceful purposes. Our country urged the United States and other nuclear states to follow its example so as to make the moratorium permanent and eternal.

We all know how events developed subsequently. The original deadline for ending the unilateral Soviet moratorium -- 1 January 1986 -- was later extended by 3 months. U.S. nuclear explosions were the response -- Washington was clearly testing our patience. Nonetheless, toward the end of March, the Soviet side took a constructive new step. The Soviet Union declared that it would not conduct nuclear explosions even after 31 March if the United States did likewise. Our country gave the Washington administration one more chance to adopt a responsible decision to end nuclear explosions.

Otherwise we will have to resume nuclear tests. The USSR cannot waive its own security or that of its allies.

Evil Logic of Militarism

It would not be our choice to resume tests -- all our efforts are being undertaken in a different direction. With this aim, the CPSU Central Committee general secretary is prepared to meet with the U.S. President in the near future in a European capital in order to reach an accord on ending nuclear explosions.

And what has happened? This time, the U.S. Administration only needed a few hours to reply to the Soviet proposal. From the Californian ranch where the President was resting came a hasty "no" accompanied by references to the fact that, as long as the arsenal of nuclear weapons exists, it is necessary to conduct tests in order to guarantee their efficacy. (Incidentally, THE WASHINGTON POST immediately remarked sarcastically that, of the 16 tests planned for this year, many are connected with the development of new types of weapons. New ones!)

There is no denying that Washington's secrets are transparent. It is forcing the pace of testing, as West Germany's WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE points out, above all with a view to creating [sozdaniye] space weapons. It has just become known that the Pentagon's nuclear planners are reckoning on conducting another explosion on the same Nevada test site on 8 April. Conclusions will have to be drawn from this by our country and its allies, by all other peace-loving states, and by the international public. "When the White House rejected the latest Soviet proposal," an NBC-TV commentator pointed out, "it declared, just as it has done in the past, that the ultimate goal of U.S. policy is the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Such a discrepancy between words and deeds does not work in the U.S. favor now." No beating about the bush, as you see.

Let us take from the endless stream of responses to the recent Soviet proposals concerning a nuclear test ban just one -- an article published in the Canadian newspaper GLOBE AND MAIL. It has a characteristic headline: "Persistent Quest for Peace in Moscow and Quest for War in Washington." What is going on? -- the newspaper wonders. Peace-loving proposals are advanced by a country to which the West ascribes "aggressive" aspirations.

However, the "goodwill" shown recently by R. Reagan, the newspaper states with irony, is far from impressive. Some examples are the refusal to subscribe to the moratorium, the nuclear explosion in Nevada, the violation of the USSR state border in the Black Sea, the preparations for war against Nicaragua, and the military provocation off the Libyan coast.

It is drilled into Americans throughout their life, the GLOBE AND MAIL sums up, that "bad guys" live on the other side of the ocean. However, when you are with Soviet people, you realize why they show valid concern about those who are presented to us as the "good guys."

Not only in the editorial office of the Canadian bourgeois newspaper but literally everywhere people are realizing the worth of the "good guys" from Washington. On Friday, approximately 1,000 prominent public figures and members of the parliament in Sweden published the appeal "Halt Nuclear Tests Now!" It is difficult to take in even with the mind's eye the kilometers-long columns of antiwar "spring marches" which have recently taken place in Western Europe. Whether in the FRG, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, or Switzerland, they have all shown the determination of millions of Europeans to defend their chief right — the right to life — and to demand that Washington abandon its nuclear tests and its plans to militarize space.

The peoples' wise logic is proving stronger than the evil logic of the arms race. Mankind is becoming aware that American behavior has recently been increasingly running counter to the "spirit of Geneva."

Africa's Friends and Enemies

The days that Samora Machel, chairman of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, spent on Soviet soil attested to the good relations linking our states, peoples, and parties. The results of his visit are fruitful and principled.

The peoples of the African Continent have already measured off a great path in the movement toward genuine freedom, independence, and progress. This is not an easy path and is sometimes attended by tragic events. Its complexities will be reflected by the UN General Assembly's special session opening in May to examine the critical economic situation in Africa. The forum is faced with drawing up a document on economic development for these countries during time when imperialism is shifting onto the developing countries, on an unprecedented scale, the consequences of the mess in its own economy.

The Soviet Union is far from indifferent to this state of affairs," M.S. Gorbachev emphasized in his replies to the Algerian magazine REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. "We for our part use our foreign trade to exert a stabilizing influence on the markets for many commodities, including those exported by developing countries. The USSR's economic and technical assistance to these countries works in the same direction, helping to form the national base of science and industry and to modernize agriculture. Our credits are repaid by developing young states' exports, and so the drama of indebtedness does not arise here."

The people of Mozambique constantly feel the comradeship of their dependable Soviet friend. The USSR is now giving the young Republic assistance in implementing 40 projects, and approximately 450 of its citizens are studying in our country's secondary and higher educational institutions. The Mozambican people are grateful to the Soviet doctors, teachers, ship repair workers, marine pilots, and mining engineers for helping them to build a new life.

At the same time, the Republic is encountering considerable difficulties created by the South African racists' aggressive intrigues. The Republic of South Africa regime is seeking to destabilize the situation in Mozambique, as in a number of other countries, by training armed gangs and infiltrating them onto their territory. This aggressiveness, nurtured by Washington's direct support, has increased particularly of late. Not concealing their joy, the closest friends of the Pretoria racists in the United States have just blurted out the fact that the White House has issued secret instructions to supply the rebels fighting on Angolan soil with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles with a heat-seeking head. (Incidentally, it has also been decided to equip the Afghan dushmans with these missiles, each of which costs the Pentagon \$75,000). As THE WASHINGTON POST points out, bandits will obtain the best U.S. weapons for the first time in the long history of conducting secret operations outside the United States. It has thus been demonstrated once again that in its actions in the international arena, Washington is inseparable from the most reactionary, antipopular forces. And the fact that it hypocritically calls the bloody mercenaries "freedom fighters" merely confirms this fact.

Pictures At an Exhibition

Fred Sinowatz, federal chancellor of the Republic of Austria, paid a working visit to Moscow last week. The high level of the development of all-round ties -- political, social, and cultural -- between the USSR and Austria and also of their economic cooperation was confirmed during that visit. What lies behind this assessment is not some "happy circumstances" or some "phenomenon" lasting since the conclusion of the State Treaty in 1955. The fruitful relations between the USSR and Austria confirm the vital force of Lenin's idea of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems. Coexistence augmented by an equitable and honest partnership, to which neither the different social systems nor the hardly comparable dimensions of our two countries are any obstacle. Over the past decade, commodity turnover between them has increased more than 300 percent, and in 1985, the USSR was the Alpine republic's fourth largest partner in terms of the volume of its exports.

The exhibition "Modern Austrian Industrial Technology" is now open in Moscow. On viewing its impressive exhibits, I could not stop thinking: While I was PRAVDA's correspondent in Austria, I seemed to visit all the country's major cities and familiarized myself with dozens of enterprises which cooperate with the USSR, and yet here I was struck by the logos of more and more new firms. Thus, many "blank spaces" in countries' cooperation have recently been filled in.

This cooperation, incidentally, is helping the Republic of Austria solve the tricky problem of unemployment. As F. Muhri, chairman of the Austrian Communist Party, recently pointed out in an article published in the newspaper VOLKSSTIMME, orders placed by the socialist countries "provide approximately 150,000 working people with steady work." Observing the successes of multifaceted Soviet-Austrian cooperation, one may experience a natural bewilderment: This typically small European country knows how to derive considerable advantages from trade with neighbors in the East, while one of the leading Western states -- the FRG -- frequently misses good opportunities. Frequently, it is true not only through its own fault. A few days ago, according to the U.S. NEWSWEEK magazine, the United States, having exerted massive pressure, obtained with Bonn's consent the right to monitor exports from the FRG to socialist countries.

Sooner or later, as has happened repeatedly before, life upsets the calculations of opponents of cooperation and mutually advantageous trade. The very course of history and social progress, the CPSU Central Committee Political Report to the 27th party congress states, is increasingly insistently demanding the organization of CONSTRUCTIVE, CREATIVE COOPERATION AMONG STATES AND PEOPLES ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE. [uppercase passage published in boldface]

SHULTZ, DOBRYNIN CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS

LD101235 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] A meeting has been held in Washington between Anatoliy Fedorovich Dobrynin and George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state. They continued their discussion of Soviet-U.S. relations.

After the meeting Shultz gave a luncheon in honor of Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

On the same day, a reception was held at the USSR Embassy on the occasion of Comrade Dobrynin's departure from Washington in connection with the completion of his tour of duty as USSR ambassador to the United States. Present at the reception were U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, other members of the administration, leading figures in the Senate and House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, and also members of the diplomatic corps and numerous representatives of the American public. Dobrynin and Shultz exchanged speeches.

SHEVARDNADZE TO MEET SHULTZ MID-MAY IN U.S.

LD101013 Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 10 TASS -- In accordance with an agreement reached, Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, will meet in the middle of May in Washington to continue the exchange of views on questions connected with Soviet-American relations and topical international problems.

REAGAN SEEKS 'PRETEXT' FOR ANOTHER LIBYAN STRIKE

LD100605 Moscow TASS in English 0559 GMT 10 Apr 86

["Reagan Lashes Out at Libya" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Washington April 10 TASS -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan held a news conference in the White House Wednesday, which made it clear that the United States is preparing another aggressive foray against sovereign Libya.

The head of the U.S. Administration, who made coarsely insulting broadsides against Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, gave the newsmen clearly to understand that the United States was now looking for a pretext for another strike at Libya which it keeps groundlessly accusing of "support for international terrorism".

The president failed to produce even the slightest proof of Libyan involvement in recent acts of terrorism he mentioned.

TASS CITES U.S. MEDIA ON PLANS TO ATTACK LIBYA

LD100618 Moscow TASS in English 0613 GMT 10 Apr 86

["USA Preparing to Strike at Libya Again" -- TASS headline]

[Text] New York April 10 TASS -- ABC television reported an opinion making rounds Washington that another blow is in the making against Libya.

Quoting U.S. military sources, it said that several days ago spy satellites had been used to make fresh photos of Libya and work was currently under way to revise the list of targets in its territory.

The contemplated options for anti-Libyan aggressive operations, the TV network said, included, besides strikes by carrier-based aircraft, runs against Libyan targets by FB-111A bombers deployed in Europe.

Another plan mooted by the Pentagon provided for using a B-52 bomber which, the ABC said, was capable, as demonstrated by exercises in Egypt, of making it nonstop from the United States to the Middle East and back after dropping bombs there.

U.S. Resumes 'Provocative Activity'

LD100824 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 10 Apr 86

["U.S. Threatens Libya" -- TASS identifier]

[Text] Washington April 10 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Alexandr Lyutyy.

The United States is resuming its provocative activity off the coast of Libya. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL quoted Pentagon officials as saying that the aircraft-carrier America, cruising in the western Mediterranean, suddenly cancelled the planned visit to the French port of Cannes.

The aircraft-carrier Coral Sea was ordered to remain in the Spanish port of Malaga rather than return to its home port in the United States.

Both carrier-led groups number about twenty vessels fitted out with modern weapons.

According to UPI, the ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet were ordered to change the sail scheduled when there emerged clear signs that the United States was planning more combat actions against Libya.

Several days ago, the United States provoked military confrontation off the Libyan shores and made several strikes at Libyan facilities.

The recent bomb explosion on board an American TWA airliner and the West Berlin nightclub bombing were chosen as a pretext for preparing new acts of aggression against the sovereign Arab country.

Although there was no proof of Libya's complicity in the terrorist acts, THE WASHINGTON POST reported, Washington hastily put the blame on Tripoli whose independent policy had long since enraged the White House.

It is indicative that the head of the American Administration himself is assiduously kindling the anti-Libyan hysteria in the United States. President Reagan, addressing newspaper editors on Wednesday, launched a barrage of threats against Libya, saying it was under suspicion and that the United States was not going to 'just sit here and hold still.'

MOSCOW TELEVISION COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY ON LIBYA

LD092247 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Apr 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Valeriy Korzin]

[Text] Serious negotiations spring not from proof of sincerity but from resolve and energy -- and resolve is founded on a sense of confidence in U.S. might. This was said by Ronald Reagan at a meeting of Republicans in New Orleans. That the U.S. President throws out sincerity in mutual relations as an unnecessary concept is, in the final analysis, a matter for his conscience and his sense of ethics. But the gamble on strength proclaimed by him could lead -- in fact is already leading -- to serious consequences.

Take, for instance, resolve and energy with regard to Libya. It seems there are no evil deeds left that the U.S. Administration is not prepared to ascribe to Libya's leader, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi.

Because Libya consistently defends the interests of the Libyan revolution he is declared virtually the world's chief terrorist. After the explosion in a West Berlin discotheque, U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger stated that he had no convincing evidence linking Al-Qadhdhafi with the terrorist act. President Reagan and CIA Director Casey, speaking at a press conference, declined to name those guilty of the explosion. If you name names you have to back up the accusation with facts, but there are no facts; there are only conjectures on which yet another anti-Libyan campaign is being fanned.

THE NEW YORK TIMES pointed out that Libya's firm anti-U.S. position is winning it sympathy in various parts of the world. For this reason Washington is now trying to blur the colors, saying that not only the United States but all Western countries are waging a struggle against Tripoli. After the rumpus caused by the terrorist provocations at the airports in Rome and Vienna, the United States tried to persuade its allies to expel Libyan representatives from Europe and tried to make them join the U.S. economic boycott. It did not work. The old scenario is now being played out again.

And it may be supposed that it was not without prompting from abroad that two Libyan diplomats have already been expelled from France, supposedly in order to safeguard U.S. targets in Europe from possible attacks.

In an interview with NBC television, McFarlane -- a former presidential aide -- said: The next step against Libya will be an increase in pressure, including the use of military force. And a correspondent for the same network, accredited to the Pentagon and apparently well-informed, added that Middle East experts consider Libya an easy target for a counterstrike. So, in certain highly placed offices of the U.S. military even that possibility is not ruled out.

In this connection the weekly ECONOMIST recalls that at the end of last summer Admiral Poindexter, then President Reagan's aide, discussed with Egypt the possibility of a joint air and land attack on Libya. Incidentally, Poindexter, already the President's national security adviser, naturally has greater opportunities and no doubt his views on national security have not undergone any serious change. The ECONOMIST also reports that since the start of the year Al-Qadhdhafi has seven times taken diplomatic steps to reach agreement with the United States to discuss their relationship at a negotiating table, but in Washington they do not wish to hear about any negotiations -- only resolve and energy based on strength.

PRAVDA CRITICIZES U.S. PERSIAN GULF POLICY

PM080913 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Glukhov report: "Who Needs the 'Umbrella'?"]

[Text] Beirut, 6 Apr -- According to news agency reports, a Saudi Arabian tanker was attacked yesterday by unidentified aircraft in the Persian Gulf northeast of the Qatar coast. As a result 29 crew members were wounded, 6 of them seriously. By 1 April of this year 125 freighters from various countries had suffered in the Iran-Iraq military conflict zone.

The danger of the widening of military operations and the involvement of new participants increases as the senseless, bloody war goes on between Iran and Iraq, a war now in its 6th year. This danger increases in connection with the neoglobalist, imperial claims of the United States, which has declared the Near East and Persian Gulf zone a sphere of its "vital interests."

By a strange coincidence, the firing by "unidentified aircraft" on the Saudi tanker took place at precisely the time that the U.S. vice president had arrived in Riyadh, from where he is to go to Bahrain, Oman, and the Yemen Arab Republic, while Assistant Secretary of State R. Murphy is visiting the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Kuwait. It is no secret that Washington has long been seeking, and is prepared to use, any pretext for open interference in the affairs of the Persian Gulf countries, offering the region's states a "protective umbrella." As an official White House spokesman stated on the eve of Bush's departure, the Iran-Iraq war and Persian Gulf security is the main topic of his diplomatic mission. Judging from press reports, Bush has again put forward the idea of using ships from the naval forces of the United States and its NATO allies to "escort" tankers. On this pretext the Pentagon would like to establish a presence in the waters of the Persian Gulf. But the news agencies report that Riyadh has made it clear that "such a presence will only complicate the situation." The consequences which it could lead to are clear from the Pentagon's past adventures in the Tonkin Gulf, the Bay of Pigs, and the Gulf of Sidra.

MOSCOW DISCUSSES ISSUES FACING RECONVENED CONGRESS

LD092352 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Report by station correspondent Andrey Ptashnikov from the United States]

[Text] After the Easter holidays the U.S. Congress resumed work in Washington. Our correspondent in the United States, Andrey Ptashnikov reports:

Among the issues the congressmen are to discuss one can probably highlight three main ones. It is expected that it is precisely over these that the most stormy debates will unfold. I am thinking first of all of the White House request for the allocation of \$100 million for military and financial aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. I would recall that 3 weeks ago the House of Representatives turned down this request. However, several days later, under the strongest pressure from the administration, it was approved by the Senate -- the upper house of Congress. Not ceasing its fervent anti-Nicaraguan and anticommunist campaign for a day, the White House hopes that the second vote on this issue in the House of Representatives, which is planned for mid-April, will yet bring success.

The legislators will also be continuing discussion of the draft federal budget for fiscal 1987. In this respect, it should be noted that the increase in military expenditures planned by the government is giving rise to growing opposition from them.

Finally, there is the question of stopping nuclear tests, which is one of the most important on the agenda of the current session of Congress. The relevant bill was tabled for its examination by Pat Schroeder, a member of the House of Representatives. More than 60 congressmen have already officially stated their support for the call to join the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear explosions.

The recent appeal from the USSR Supreme Soviet to the U.S. Congress to do everything it can so that the position of the United States will also help to solve the problem of stopping nuclear testing in accordance with the will of the peoples, with their passionate desire to have stable peace on earth, has also made a great impression on the legislators.

The discussions being resumed in Congress will demonstrate if the American legislators are ready to respond positively to this appeal, and to take specific steps aimed at curbing the arms race.

HOWE'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN DRAWS CONCLUSION

DRA Calls Visit 'Provocative'

PM091454 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS dispatch: "Protest Lodged"]

[Text] Kabul, 8 Apr -- The recent visit to Pakistan of G. Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, was of a clearly provocative nature, and the statements he made can only be interpreted as overt interference in the internal affairs of the DRA.

This was pointed out by a DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman in an interview to a correspondent of the BAKHTAR news agency. Proceeding from familiar anti-Afghan positions, G. Howe tried to conceal the fact that the tension in the region arose as a result of the undeclared war unleashed against the DRA by the forces of international imperialism and of the transformation of Pakistan's territory into a refuge for gangs and criminal elements.

At a meeting with ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolution, G. Howe promised them increased British Government aid. According to his words, the injections of British money for Afghan gangs will total 5 million pounds this year. All this is yet more evidence that Britain continues to conduct a policy of crude interference in the affairs of the DRA, an independent and sovereign state and a member of the Nonaligned Movement, the Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman noted.

G. Howe's trip to the Khyber area, he noted, also clearly exposes the fact that official London not only fully supports Islamabad's policy aimed at depriving the Pushtuns of their rights and freedoms but is furthermore encouraging the Pakistani regime to step up its undeclared war against the DRA.

It is the view of the DRA Foreign Ministry that the provocative activities of British officials and their anti-Afghan remarks represent an outright violation of the norms of international law, and it is lodging a protest in this connection.

Tries to 'Obstruct' Settlement

LD071019 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0230 GMT 7 Apr 86

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Konstantin Patsyuk]

[Text] The foreign press is reporting on the results of the 4-day official visit to Pakistan by Howe, British minister for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, which has just ended. He held talks there with President Ziaul Haq and other Pakistani leaders. Howe tried to convince Islamabad to continue to obstruct a settlement of the Afghan situation. And in order somehow to entice Islamabad he offered them 420 million pounds sterling [as heard] in the form of military aid. And probably these arguments had their effect. During talks details of a major agreement were discussed, according to which Pakistan will receive on favorable terms the latest British tank turrets and tank guns, and components for self-propelled antiaircraft guns. Such generosity on the part of London can be explained fairly simply. Great Britain, like the United States, the FRG, and some other Western countries, does not want a peaceful and just settlement of the situation in Southwest Asia.

PASHTUN TRIBES DENOUNCE PAKISTAN, U.S. AGGRESSION

LD092302 Moscow TASS in English 1642 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Kabul April 9 TASS -- A jirga of Pashtun tribes opened here today. The main report on the situation in the zone inhabited by the tribes, on the historic traditions and rights of the Pashtuns and Baluchis, their struggle for freedom and independence was delivered by member of the jirga's presidium, representative of the Momand tribe, Haji Munshi Sahargol.

He pointed out that the imperialist and reactionary forces from the first days after the victory of the April Revolution had assumed a stand hostile to Afghanistan, unleashed an undeclared war against it in an effort to undermine the process of progressive transformations. The Pashtun tribes also became the target of an aggression. Contrary to the will of the Pakistani people, the Islamabad military regime set up 120 camps for the training of Afghan counterrevolutionaries in the zone inhabited by the tribes.

Haji Munshi Sahargol pointed out the Soviet Union's principled stand with regard to a just struggle of the Pashtun tribes against the aggression of the Pakistani military. He said the USSR is a staunch defender of international peace and security, democracy, independence, social justice. The Soviet Union has always declared against war, colonialism, imperialism and racism, against oppression and exploitation, against the policy of aggression and militarism. Traditional and unbreakable friendship links Pashtun tribes with Afghanistan, the speaker said. "This friendship has withstood the test of time and we are not going to tolerate the existence of camps for the training of Afghan counterrevolutionaries on our territory. Pashtuns will not allow foreign arms used against fraternal Afghanistan to be stored in the areas they inhabit."

The message of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the participants in the jirga was read out by Haji Mohammad Tsamkani, vice president of the Revolutionary Council, chairman of the Central Council of the Supreme Jirga of Tribes. "We take pride in the fact," the message said, "that the Pashtun tribes support the April Revolution and are prepared to uphold it. We shall make our frontiers impenetrable to traitors of the Afghan people, to agents of imperialism. But this frontier will always be open to you, our Pashtun brothers".

Speaking at the jirga, representatives of tribes noted that the Pakistani military and forces of international imperialism headed by the USA seek to bring the tribes to their knees by employing outright aggression, bribery and intimidation. The bloody aggression in Khyber, intensive military preparations in other areas show that Pakistan is being used by U.S. imperialism and international reaction to destabilise the situation in the region.

WEINBERGER DISCUSSES ANZUS DURING AUSTRALIA VISIT

LD092310 Moscow TASS in English 2220 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Canberra April 10 TASS -- Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of defence, who is currently on a tour of a number of Asian and Pacific nations, has arrived on a three-day visit in Australia. According to reports of a foreign news agencies, the talks to be held in Canberra will focus on the crisis on the ANZUS bloc, including, apart from the USA and Australia, also New Zealand. The military alliance, acting under the U.S. aegis, has been balancing on the verge of a disintegration as New Zealand has categorically prohibited calls of U.S. naval vessels with nuclear weapons on board at its ports. Washington is seriously concerned about the movement gaining momentum in Australia for dismantling the U.S. military bases and declaring that country to be a nuclear-free zone. Against the background of these events the Pentagon chief intends to seek a broadening of U.S. military cooperation with Australia. He will also try to gear Canberra to the U.S. campaign of pressuring New Zealand.

TASS REPORTS AUSTRALIA WITHHOLDS SUPPORT OF SDI

LD092035 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Canberra April 9 TASS -- Australian Defence Minister Kim Beazley stated in parliament on Tuesday that Australia would not officially participate in the "star wars" programme or in SDI-related research. He emphasized that the government did not intend to enter into any negotiations with the USA on the conclusion of agreements the kind of those which had already been signed or were being worked out between the United States, Britain, the FRG or Japan. Mr. Beazley pointed out that the Australian Government did not support the "Strategic Defence Initiative" (SDI) concept and that it would not conduct any negotiations on a broad agreement of that kind.

The Australian defence minister said this in parliament in answer to a question about the Australian Government's stand in connection with local press reports that the country's government was ostensibly prepared to make a compromise under the pressure of the ally across the ocean: not to prevent private companies and research organisations from participating in the SDI programme provided their activities are not directly connected with the development of space weapons. The reports sparked off an outburst of indignation among the public and wrathful statements by representatives of the scientific circles and mass media of the country that the entire "star wars" programme is aimed at creating space weapons and that, therefore, it is impossible to engage in peaceful research within the SDI framework.

"THE AUSTRALIAN" newspaper reports that at the same time no firm promises to prevent the participation of Australian business in the implementation of the SDI were voiced at the meeting of the parliamentary group of the ruling Labour Party.

RECEPTION SPEECHES CONCLUDE BCP CONGRESS IN SOFIA

PM080853 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In Honor of the Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Sofia, 6 Apr -- The BCP Central Committee held a reception on 5 April in honor of the foreign delegations that took part in the 13th BCP Congress.

The reception was attended by T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council; G. Atanasov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers; members and candidate members of the BCP Central Committee Politburo, secretaries of the BCP Central Committee, and members of the party Central Committee.

Present at the reception were the CPSU delegation headed by N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and other foreign delegations.

T. Zhivkov delivered a speech to those taking part in the reception. He expressed confidence that the great and responsible tasks the 13th BCP Congress has set for the party and people will be resolved. As was stressed at the congress, he said, our confidence in success arises from our own experience, from the country's increased economic, scientific, technical, and cadre potential, and from the people's unity. The basis of our confidence is the great Marxist-Leninist teaching. This confidence arises from our membership in the socialist community, from cooperation and integration with the fraternal socialist countries, above all the Soviet Union, and from the support which progressive forces give us.

The BCP and Bulgaria, for their part, will continue to march shoulder to shoulder with the socialist countries, to strengthen their fraternal solidarity with the struggle of the international communist and workers movement and all working people against the oppression of capital, and to give support to the peoples fighting against imperialism, neocolonialism, racism, and reaction and for national liberation, democratic transformations, social progress, and peace.

The chief problem is that of preserving and strengthening peace on the planet, that of the salvation of civilization. This task is a common task for us, for people with differing convictions, a common task for all who value life and the prosperity of present and future generations. Bulgaria will continue to act with unvarying indefatigability for the sake of peace and security in the Balkans, in Europe, and throughout the rest of the world, for the sake of detente, disarmament and dialogue, mutual understanding, and cooperation between countries with different social systems.

For the sake of this, T. Zhivkov stated, the Bulgarian Communists, at their congress, once again expressed warm support for the peace initiatives put forward at the 27th CPSU Congress.

N.I. Ryzhkov delivered a reply speech. He said: Permit me on behalf of all the foreign delegations who were present at the 13th BCP Congress to warmly congratulate the comrades elected by the congress to the party's leading organs and to congratulate Comrade Todor Zhivkov on his reelection as general secretary of the BCP Central Committee. M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, sends cordial congratulations to Comrade T. Zhivkov.

To merit the confidence of a party which through all the vicissitudes of history has preserved the organized nature of its ranks, its ideological staunchness, and its loyalty to Marxism-Leninism is a great honor and a tremendous responsibility. We wish you continuing success in bearing aloft the internationalist banner of Dimitur Blagoev and Georgi Dimitrov.

We were not merely guests of the congress. We had a profound, direct sense of involvement in the content of its work. Your congress defined new tasks and inspiring prospects for Bulgaria's socialist development and took place in an atmosphere of party unity and close cohesion of the Bulgarian people around the party.

From the congress platform there rang out with new force the BCP's determination firmly and steadily to pursue the course of developing all-around cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries and strengthening the socialist community and its collective organizations -- the Warsaw Pact and CEMA. The BCP actively calls for the deepening of ties with the international communist and workers movement, of which it is itself a part, for comradely solidarity among communists, and for unity of actions by all fighters for peace, national independence, and social progress.

Envoys from the peoples of more than 100 countries are present in this hall. There is no more important, more responsible task for the people than to stop the arms race, eliminate nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and preserve peace and human civilization. That is the prime cause of every party, every politician, and all people of goodwill.

The CPSU delegation is grateful to the Bulgarian comrades for your party's high assessment of the historical significance and results of the 27th CPSU Congress and of its creative, innovative contribution to the theory and practice of socialist building. Soviet Communists and all Soviet people value your solidarity and your understanding and support for the CPSU's course of accelerating the country's socio-economic development and strengthening world peace.

In conclusion, N.I. Ryzhkov wished the Bulgarian comrades fruitful, successful work in implementing the large-scale, noble ideas and plans embodied in the 13th congress decisions. In this work, he stressed, the BCP can count firmly on the solidarity and support of its many friends and like-minded people.

PM091340 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 86 First Edition p 3

Taking part in the conversation, which passed in a businesslike atmosphere, were the following: On the Soviet side -- A.K. Antonov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Minister of Foreign Trade B.I. Aristov; and A.P. Bondarenko, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's third European section; on the West German side -- FRG Ambassador to the USSR J. Kastl and D. Vogel, press secretary at the FRG Ministry for Economics.

III. 10 Apr 86

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WESTERN EUROPE

USSR AMBASSADOR CRITICIZES FRG SDI PARTICIPATION

LD091938 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1500 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Excerpts] The Soviet ambassador to Helsinki, V.M. Sobolev, explained the recent Soviet arms limitation proposals at a press conference today. Sobolev criticized the U.S. SDI plans saying that they could endanger the nuclear weapons balance and transfer the arms race into space, in which case it would be almost impossible to control.

Sobolev was asked, among other things, about his view of the West German Government's decision to permit FRG enterprises to participate in the U.S. SDI research.

Ambassador Sobolev said the decision of the FRG Government conflicts with the earlier statements by the country's leadership according to which never again will a threat to world peace and security originate from German soil.

FRG Minister for Economics Martin Bangemann recently signed an agreement in the United States on the participation of FRG enterprises in the star wars plans.

FRG BUNDESTAG DISARMAMENT DELEGATION IN MOSCOW

LD092259 Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS -- A delegation of the FRG Bundestag Subcommittee on Arms Control and Disarmament arrived today in Moscow. The delegation is headed by subcommittee's Chairman Egon Bahr.

REPORTAGE ON CPSU DELEGATION ATTENDING PCI CONGRESS

LD081547 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 8 Apr 86

[Text] Rome April 8 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Lev Zaykov today met with chairman of Italy's Council of Ministers Bettino Craxi. Lev Zaykov arrived in Italy to take part in the work of the 17th Congress of the Italian Communist Party.

The conversation passed in a businesslike and open atmosphere. A thorough exchange of opinions on questions of interests to both sides was held. Member of the CPSU Central Committee Vadim Zagladin and USSR Ambassador to Italy Nikolay Lunkov took part in the conversation.

CPSU Issues Statement

PM091342 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 86 First Edition p 3

[Text] Moscow, 9 Apr (TASS) -- The following is the text of a message of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) to the delegations to the 17th Congress of the Italian Communist Party (PCI).

Dear Comrades:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ardently greets the delegates to the 17th Congress of the Italian Communist Party and all Italian Communists.

Your congress has begun its work in the conditions of a complex situation in the world. The beginning of an improvement in international relations is with difficulty winning its way in the fight against militarism and reaction. One has to struggle for peace persistently, daily, and with the application of all one's energies. The advocates of war, the cult of violence, and state terrorism do not intend to give up the plans aimed at achieving superiority and social revanche. They are preparing to make a new, irretrievable step: to militarize space.

The CPSU at its 27th Congress outlined an extensive program for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security.

The aim of the program is to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, to prevent a new world war, to elaborate a package of measures with a view to building trust between nations, and to maintain cooperation in the dissemination of the ideas of peace, disarmament, and international security. The CPSU is for peaceful coexistence to become the supreme universal principle of international relations. To enter the 21st century without nuclear and chemical weapons is a lofty goal that can be attained only through the joint efforts of all nations.

The CPSU firmly supports widening contacts with all those struggling against war and for international security. The party's general course is directed towards large-scale all-round cooperation for the sake of achieving success in the battle against nuclear war, success which if attained will be inscribed in golden letters in mankind's book of life.

The Soviet people are now tackling great tasks. The 27th CPSU Congress and the new edition of the program of the CPSU will enlist the efforts of Soviet Communists and all Soviet people for further all-round refinement of socialism and for an advance to communism.

The wish of the Italian Communists to strengthen friendly ties which have long existed between the CPSU -- the party of Lenin -- and the Italian Communist Party -- the party of Gramsci and Togliatti -- is highly appreciated in the Soviet Union. The striving expressed by the leaders of the CPSU and the PCI in January 1986 to develop constructive relations between the two parties with full respect for the independence of each of them is of great importance.

The CPSU believes that the unity of communists has nothing in common with uniformity and hierarchy, with interference by some parties in the affairs of other ones, or with a desire of some party for monopoly on truth. The communists' real unity is in their struggle for common goals: peace and socialism.

The Communists in the Land of the Soviets greet the PCI activities which will benefit peace and oppose the threat of nuclear war. The PCI's stand on matters aimed at upholding peace is an important component of the development and strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Italian peoples.

We wish the Italian Communists further successes in the struggle for peace, for the vital interests of the working people of Italy, and for the country's development along the lines of democracy and social progress.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee

Zaykov Attends Opening

LD091650 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Florence April 9 TASS -- The 17th Congress of the Italian Communist Party today opened in the Sports Palace in Florence. It is a significant event in the political life of the country. About one-third of the Italian voters cast their ballots for the Communists in elections. The Italian Communist Party stands for the vital interests of the mass of the working people and energetically protects them in Parliament. Communists control local bodies of government in many provinces of Italy. More than 1,000 delegates, representing over 1.5 million party members, have come for the congress. More than 100 delegations of different political parties from other countries and of national liberation movements have arrived for the congress. The delegation of the CPSU led by Lev Zaykov, a member of the Politbureau and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is in the grandstands for guests of honour along with other delegations. The congress, which will close on April 13, is taking place under the motto: "For a modern party of reform, for a program, for an alternative for Italy and for Europe."

COMMENTARY ON ITALIAN SDI INVOLVEMENT

PM081037 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[Gennadiy Zafesov commentary: "In The Role of Underlings"]

[Text] Rome -- The Italian Government has now officially announced its intentions of joining in the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative" (SDI).

At a joint session of the Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees, Minister of Foreign Affairs G. Andreotti, stated that "the moment has come to define, together with the United States, the framework within which Italian companies could take part in the research phase of SDI." Defense Minister G. Spadolini added that future cooperation "requires agreement at government level."

As though foreseeing a negative reaction from the public, both ministers hurried to conceal the dangerous nature of the matter behind a screen of various stipulations. They tried to lull the Italians' concern with empty assertions, such as that "the research section of the ('star wars' -- G.Z.) program will not have a negative effect on the stability of the strategic equilibrium on a global scale."

A strange statement, it must be admitted. The leading Italian ministers, if anyone, should realize that the main aim of Washington's SDI is precisely to change in their favor the established approximate equilibrium of forces. And this, in turn, threatens to push the world toward a new spiral of the arms race, with unpredictable consequences.

Nor can the claims that Italy supposedly cannot miss the opportunity for "its industry to take part in scientific and technical cooperation" stand up to criticism.

First, the United States has so far displayed interest only in a few Italian projects. Second, as Carlos Rubia, the well-known Italian physicist and Nobel prizewinner, points out, the very idea that "progress in technology requires the development of new methods of destroying people" is absurd.

The government statement gave rise to sharp criticism. On behalf of the Italian Communist Party, Senator G. Procacci came out against space militarization plans.

Left-wing independent Senator E. Milani assessed the ministers' position as a de facto involvement in SDI, for which they are now trying to create a political basis.

Despite wide demands for the problem of participation in SDI to be taken beyond the bounds of the two Senate committees, the government is trying to prevent general parliamentary debates. It is clearly under pressure from its ally across the ocean and its own military monopolies.

Meanwhile the opposition to U.S. "star wars" plans is growing and not only in Italian parliamentary and political circles. The Italians, who not long ago were made to accept U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles on their territory, evidently do not want to become Washington's underlings in its new militarist venture.

U.S. ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN 'STAR WARS'

LD072048 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 7 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 7 TASS -- TASS political observer Alexy Grigoryev writes:

The ailment which can be described as a "military-political insanity" is growing progressively worse in certain political circles of the West. In addition to the plans for the sinister SDI programme whose implementation threatens the world with a catastrophe from space, a programme of "star wars" of a lesser scale, the so-called European Defence Initiative (EDI) is now started being developed on the banks of the Rhine and Thames, the Seine and Tiber, with the encouragement from Washington.

The EDI programme is publicised the loudest in the FRG. The West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner is making the use for the purpose not only of the mass media in his own country but also of those abroad. Writing recently in the U.S. "STRATEGIC REVIEW" he called for the creation of anti-missile defence for Europe based on the use of more up-to-date equipment. According to him, the construction of units of anti-missile defence in Europe is necessitated by the "Soviet menace" and is required for the consolidation of the NATO alliance.

These arguments are nothing new, but then the reason for Bonn's particular activity in the matter is not new either. In the fifties, the FRG ruling circles were explaining their attempt to equip the Bundeswehr with nuclear weapons by the striving for "military-strategic equality" with partners in NATO. Nowadays they try to get hold of nuclear weapons via the "space bridge", through involving West German firms in the implementation of SDI.

The secret agreements to this effect between the Governments of the USA and the FRG apparently far from satisfied the hopes of the Bavarian and Rhine war industry concerns for a sizeable slice of the space pie since the White House and the Pentagon clearly view the SDI as a street with one-way traffic, for the brain drain and the pumping of the latest technology from Western Europe.

This is why they in Bonn, Paris, London, and Rome clutch at the West European space programme. And they laud it in the same words as the U.S. SDI. They hammer away that the programme has exclusively "defensive" nature, that it is called upon to prevent the turning of Europe into a zone of decreased security after the "SDI covers the USA by an impenetrable shield".

But the replacement of the title "SDI" with "EDI" will not help to prove what is impossible to prove. While they in Washington make assurances that the creation of space arms will make nuclear arms "impotent", Moscow believes that it is reasonable and safe simply to destroy the existing armaments and not to create new ones. While they in Bonn think that the implementation of EDI will protect U.S. first-strike nuclear weapons ("Pershing-2" and cruise missiles) deployed in the FRG territory, it is asked in Moscow: Is it not simpler to accept the Soviet proposal and rid entire Europe of nuclear arms and chemical weapons?

Emergence of new generations of anti-missile weapons in Western Europe will become a serious destabilising factor in the military-strategic balance of forces, will lead to the erosion of international agreements arresting the arms race. The U.S. "WALL STREET JOURNAL" makes this admission and a TASS observer cannot but get along with such a conclusion.

Bogachev Comments

LD051547 Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT 5 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 5 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes: In the NATO capitals they are increasingly claiming what they call the "inevitable" need for Europe to have a large-scale ground- and space-based antimissile defense of its own.

Industrial monopolies in a number of West European countries, mostly those which have already agreed to join efforts with the United States in the "star wars" project, are developing air-borne ABM systems with electronic-optic and other guidance aids for antimissile missiles and doing research into railground and ground-based lasers as a defense against missiles.

The name for the plan to militarize outer space above Western Europe has already been invented. It is "the European Defense Initiative" (EDI). The advocates of various plans for an ABM defense for West Germany, France and Britain are trying to "justify" them by arguing that the United States has finally set course to outer space militarization and Western Europe should not stay outside the process. Public discussions are under way on the advantages of building a "purely European" antimissiles defense which would allegedly make it possible to preserve the West European countries' independence from Washington.

But there can be no question of independence for the West European NATO countries in the event of their building an ABM system of their own. The EDI fits in fully with the U.S. "star wars" plans and will only make it possible to tie Western Europe even more securely to the U.S. plans to militarize outer space at the expense of West Europeans themselves.

The EDI will be another illusory but dangerous attempt to protect the U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles in the European theater of operations against retaliation in case the United States launches a "limited" nuclear war.

The argument of ensuring West European independence through the EDI is all bluff serving U.S. selfish ends in the continent.

It is only recently that the leaders of the two West European nuclear powers, Britain and France, were arguing with ardor that the construction of large-scale ABM defenses first in the United States and then in the USSR would reduce the significance of their own "limited strategic offensive forces" to nil.

In Paris and London alike they were declaring that this contradicted the national interests of their countries and they would press strongly for the United States to comply with the Soviet-U.S. ABM Treaty of 1972.

Now the NATO countries' governments have, obviously under, U.S. pressure, "forgotten" those arguments. The EDI supporters are contending that after the realization of the U.S. "star wars" program and the reply measures by the Soviet Union Western Europe "will be left defenseless" and "become a zone of diminished security" and that for this reason instead of limiting the ABM defenses of the USSR and the United States it is necessary to deploy them on a large scale, including in Western Europe. If the leaders of the European NATO countries are really concerned about security problems, wouldn't it be more logical for them to join efforts for keeping outer space peaceful, for eliminating medium-range nuclear weapons in the European zone and excluding nuclear weapons from the life of mankind?

SWEDEN, FINLAND FAVOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE NORTH

LD091347 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Helsinki April 9 TASS -- Sweden and Finland actively come out in favour of disarmament and consider it the main and urgent task now to achieve a total ban on nuclear tests. This was emphasised during the official visit to Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson to Finland.

The two sides pointed out the coincidence of views in the field of international politics, and, in particular, on the importance of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the north of Europe. The pooling of the two countries' resources meets their interests and the interests of all Nordic countries, points out "SUOMEN SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTI".

At a press conference here, Ingvar Carlsson pointed out the betterment of relations between Sweden and the Soviet Union and expressed hope that his forthcoming visit to the USSR would serve to further broaden the contacts.

PCF STATEMENT SCORES GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC MEASURES

LD091817 Moscow TASS in English 1147 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Paris April 9 TASS -- The economic measures announced by the new right-wing majority government were dealing a blow at France's working people and further worsening their position, the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party [PCF] stressed in its statement, published here today. The French economy would be further deteriorated by the conducted devaluation of the franc, while ensuring economic measures would pave the way for another powerful offensive on the rights, interests and social gains of the working class, the statement said.

The new government's course was playing into the hands of the employers. It was directed at laying the burden of the current economic crisis on the shoulders of the working people, the statement pointed out. It was threatening new mass layoffs, curtailed production and reduced employment. At the same time, controls over the exports of capital were lifted, enabling financial barons to reap enormous profits, the statement emphasised. The plans to privatise the state economic sector were of immense danger to the country.

In the current conditions, with the right-wing majority government in power and the threat of worsening of the country's economic situation enhanced, the French Communist Party called for closer unity among all communists, all working people, and for more vigorous struggle in defence of their inalienable rights and interests.

KATUSHEV GIVES GORBACHEV MESSAGE TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD090516 Moscow TASS in English 0510 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 9 TASS -- The leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'amar al-Qadhafi received the government delegation of the U.S.S.R. led by Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and members of the CPSU Central Committee, now staying here on a visit. At the meeting, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, the sides discussed questions pertaining to a further development of bilateral ties in the light of the long-term programme for the economic, scientific, technological and trade cooperation between the U.S.S. R. and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah, signed by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and the leader of the Libyan Revolution Mu'amar al-Qadhafi. The head of the Soviet delegation handed over to Mu'amar al-Qadhafi a message from the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev.

AL-QADHDHAFI: U.S. SEEKS PRETEXT FOR AGGRESSION

LD01000 Moscow TASS in English 0905 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 10 TASS -- The leader of the Libyan revolution, Mu'amar al-Qadhafi, has strongly rebuffed U.S. attempts to accuse his country of recent acts of terrorism in West European countries.

Speaking at a news conference here, he said those charges represent a bid to find an excuse for aggression against a sovereign nation. Washington is out to force an Arab nation to its knees with the help of the Israeli military, Al-Qadhafi said, adding that Libya is determined to uphold its independence. The (?Libyan) leader said talks with Washington are possible only if the United States abandons its policy of state-sponsored terrorism.

Speaking of U.S. attempts at pressure on West European countries to join its economic sanctions against Libya, he said the U.S. Administration is doing this to sacrifice the interests of these countries to its own selfish ends.

JANA news agency reported that Al-Qadhafi held a conference with the commanders of Libyan ground, naval, air and air defense forces to work out plans for countering U.S. threats. The conference was also attended by members of Libya's revolutionary leadership.

Al-Qadhafi Supports USSR Proposals

LD091954 Moscow TASS in English 1819 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 9 TASS -- Libya wholly supports the initiative of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev which envisages simultaneous withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. fleets from the Mediterranean, leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'amar al-Qadhafi said at a press conference here answering a question from a TASS correspondent. This proposal attests convincingly to the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions, its sincere striving to avert the danger of outbreak of wars on earth, he said. Together with all peoples of the region we support this initiative and we shall be striving for its implementation, he said.

Unlike the Soviet Union, the U.S. Administration has assumed a clearly irresponsible stand with regard to destinies of peace, Mu'amar al-Qadhafi said. The refusal to support the Soviet initiative shows again that Washington's imperialist aims contradict the cause of establishing world peace. The United States' unwillingness to withdraw its fleet from the Mediterranean is explained also by its striving to threaten Arab countries constantly and ensure by military force the protection of its ally, Israel.

LIBYA SUPPORTS GORBACHEV PEACE PROPOSALS

LD091049 Moscow TASS in English 0725 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 9 TASS -- TASS correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov reporting.

The Libyan public welcomes the new Soviet initiative set forth by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the initiative that provides for a Soviet-American summit meeting in order to discuss the issue of ending nuclear tests, said a statement circulated here by Libya's National Committee for Solidarity and Peace.

People in the Libyan Jamahiriya, the statement said further, also received with satisfaction another proposal put forward by the Soviet leader who expressed the Soviet Union's readiness to withdraw its naval ships from the Mediterranean if the United States pulled out its Navy from there.

The new Soviet peace proposals, the statement said, accord with the hopes and aspirations of all freedom loving nations of the world, including the nations in our region that are striving to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace, security and international cooperation, a zone free from foreign bases and naval fleets.

As to Washington, its negative reaction to these initiatives as well as to other Soviet proposals called upon to strengthen peace the world over and curb the arms race, again demonstrated to the international public the aggressive and terrorist nature of U.S. imperialism. It is the White House that is responsible for the sharp aggravation of tensions in the world of late.

The Libyan committee for solidarity and peace urged all other solidarity committees, all peace-loving people on earth support the new Soviet peace proposals and to take urgent measures for their realization.

POLYAKOV, EGYPT'S AL-BAZ HOLD TALKS IN CAIRO

LD091405 Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Cairo April 9 TASS -- Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and the Arab Republic of Egypt held consultations here April 6 and 7 on the situation in the Middle East and on questions pertaining to Mid-Eastern settlement.

Taking part in the consultations from the Soviet side were V.P. Polyakov, a member of the Collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., head of the Department of Middle East Countries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R., and A.M. Belonogov, ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to Egypt, and from the Egyptian side -- Usamah al-Baz, head of the Political Office of the president, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of Egypt and Hasan Qandil, head of a department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Soviet representatives also had meetings with Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, minister of foreign affairs of Egypt, and Butrus Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs.

EGYPT NEGOTIATES TWO TRADE ACCORDS IN MOSCOW

PM030947 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 2 Apr 86 p 1

['Abd al-Malik Khalil report: "Two Trade Agreements With Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow -- The second round of talks held by the Egyptian delegation in Moscow have led to two trade agreements. The first is to be signed in May and will cover the period up to 1900 and the second concerns the current year [as published]. This is in addition to laying down the basis for economic cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

It was decided to hold a third round of talks between the two countries in Cairo in order to settle some pending matters. The talks were attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Moscow Salah al-din Basyuni.

The Egyptian delegation, headed by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali and the Soviet delegation, headed by First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov, issued a joint statement asserting the need to develop relations between the two countries within the framework of the traditional friendship between them.

Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali last Wednesday began talks with the chairman of the Soviet Council of State [as published], the Director of Gosbank, and senior officials at the Ministry of Trade.

TASS NOTES ANNIVERSARY OF USSR-IRAQI TREATY

LD081642 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 8 Apr 86

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Ostalskiy]

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (TASS) -- On 9 April the peoples of the USSR and Iraq mark the 14th anniversary of the signing of their friendship and cooperation treaty. This document formed a firm basis and guarantee for the unswerving development of friendly relations between the USSR and Iraq. The years since then have shown that Soviet-Iraqi cooperation in various spheres is in the fundamental interests of the Soviet and Iraqi peoples, and makes a positive contribution to the struggle of the progressive forces to strengthen international peace and security.

Economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries is developing rapidly, and mutually beneficial trade ties are growing stronger. The visit to the USSR by Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq, in December last year made a considerable contribution to strengthening Soviet-Iraqi relations.

The friendship and cooperation treaty laid a firm foundation for friendly relations over many years, built on mutual respect, equal rights, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, 'Abd al-Fattah Amin, chairman of the Iraqi Union of Societies for Friendship with Peoples said to a TASS correspondent. He said that Iraq, like other Arab countries, thinks highly of the USSR's friendly position with respect to the just cause of the Arab peoples and of its support for the Palestinians' struggle for the restoration of their legitimate rights.

Supreme Soviet Cables Saddam

PM081336 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers sent a telegram to S. Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq, conveying to him and to the friendly Iraqi people greetings and best wishes on the 14th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq.

The telegram expresses confidence that the fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq will continue to develop further for the benefit of both peoples in the interests of peace and the just political settlement of regional conflicts.

A telegram sent by S. Husayn to the Soviet leadership on the same occasion conveys warmest greetings and best wishes to the friendly Soviet people.

We take this opportunity, the telegram says, to affirm our determination to strengthen and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries.

We are firmly convinced that these relations, based on mutual respect and our peoples' common interests, will help affirm the principles of peace and friendship in our region and throughout the world.

SOVIET ENVOY IN BEIRUT ON LEBANON, MIDEAST ISSUES

NC091246 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Apr 86

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami met with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov this morning. The ambassador has returned to Lebanon after a 6-month absence. Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuriy Suslikov was also present, and the conferees reviewed current developments in Lebanon and the region.

Following the meeting, Soldatov declined to answer a question on the USSR's agreement to fund UN forces in the south. He said: We have made our position known regarding an independent and united Lebanon. The Lebanese should decide their own future. He added that the talks touched on conditions in the region.

Responding to a question on Soviet moves in relation to the situation in Lebanon and the region in light of the current U.S. activity, Soldatov said: We have a permanent initiative. We presented our opinion on the Middle East issue in September 1982. We also support the initiative launched by the nonaligned countries in Malta this year.

Continuing, the Soviet ambassador noted: We reject the policy of aggression in the Middle East and Israel's acts of aggression against Lebanon. We back the efforts made by the Arab states to strengthen their defenses against those countries that are attacking them. We hope that the PLO will reach its objectives in the near future and establish an independent Palestinian state. We are working for the PLO's unity. Soldatov denied reports that the Soviet Embassy would be moving from its present location.

On the papal initiative, the Soviet envoy stated: I can describe it as humanitarian and ethical.

FLN POLITBURO APPROVES BENDJEDID USSR VISIT

PM081318 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "High Appraisal"]

[Text] Algiers, 7 Apr -- The National Liberation Front [FLN] Party Politburo has approved the results of the official friendly visit to the USSR by C. Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN Party.

The session emphasized the particular importance of this visit and highly appraised the political talks held during the visit and the USSR-Algerian documents that were signed. The Politburo, the communique carried by APS says, points out that the results of the visit are yet further confirmation of the development of friendly Algerian-Soviet relations.

The Politburo examined the measures taken by Algeria's leadership to combat the negative consequences of the world economic crisis. It expressed confidence that the Algerian people, as they have repeatedly proved in the past, will ensure the defense of socioeconomic gains and the country's advance along the path of progress.

The participants in the session also examined a number of other questions of Algeria's domestic and foreign policy.

PRAVDA SEES IMPROVED SITUATION IN PDRY

PM091350 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "In a Businesslike Rhythm"]

[Text] Aden, 8 Apr -- Social and economic life is noticeably livelier in Democratic Yemen. Industrial enterprises destroyed during the January events are again becoming operational.

The working people are expressing support for the policy of the Yemeni Socialist Party and are striving to make their contribution to the speediest commissioning of national economic projects.

The further stabilization of the situation in the country is also promoted by the general amnesty announced by the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Supreme People's Council Presidium.

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF SHIM'ON PERES' U.S. VISIT

PM080826 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[Article by Vladimir Peresada: "Behind the Scenes Intrigue"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister S. Peres has made a trip to the United States. He held talks with high-ranking representatives of the American Administration, including Vice President G. Bush, who has himself now set off on a tour of the Near East.

In the course of the talks, as was to be expected, total unanimity between Washington and its "strategic ally" in the Near East was once again apparent. Thus, during a discussion of "regional security" problems Peres unreservedly supported the piratical actions of the U.S. 6th Fleet against sovereign Libya, terming these actions "timely and necessary."

Not only verbal "approval" of American aggression lies behind this stance. As Tripoli radio reported, there is information that the question of practical assistance which Israel could give the United States in subsequent aggressive attacks on Libya was also discussed in secret. In his turn Peres put forward a plan for the financial enslavement of the Near East by Western monopolist capital. Referring to the economic difficulties suffered by a number of states in the region, he proposed setting up a multibillion dollar "aid" fund for these countries, in which the United States, its closest allies, and also international financial organizations under U.S. control would participate.

The point of this idea is to try to tempt with financial handouts certain Arab states in addition to Israel, which is so generously subsidized by Washington. New guarantees for the "peace process" in the Near East would thereby be ensured, Peres said. In other words, it is designed to incline Arab countries toward versions of a Near East settlement that suit Washington and Tel Aviv. It is no accident, as the Israeli press reports, that those across the ocean adopted an understanding attitude toward the expensive but tempting venture of a "Near East Marshall Plan."

On the eve of Peres' trip, Western, including American, newspapers wrote that the question of Israeli participation in the American "star wars" program would be discussed during the talks in Washington. However, not a word has been said about this since the conclusion of the visit. The deathly silence maintained by both sides in connection with Tel Aviv's possible involvement in Reagan's "Strategic Defense Initiative," as the press notes, merely confirms the worst suspicions that accords in principle reached earlier have now simply been made secret.

Peres' visit has thereby confirmed the now immutable rule that trips across the ocean by Israel's leaders are invariably connected with behind the scenes machinations directed against the peoples of the Near East and with strengthening the U.S.-Israel military and political axis.

U.S., ISRAEL HOLD TALKS ON SETTING UP NAVAL STRIKE FORCE

LD042133 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Apr 86

[Text] The United States and Israel are holding intensive talks on setting up an Israeli naval strike force in the next few years. Our correspondent in Damascus, Kazbek Basiyev, reports:

This report has given rise to serious alarm in the Arab countries, particularly after the latest events off the shores of Libya, where the United States essentially unleashed armed aggression against this independent, sovereign Arab state. As the Syrian newspapers write, if the Israeli naval forces are given additional submarines and modern missile carriers, as provided for by the future U.S.-Israeli agreement, it may lead to a sharp exacerbation of the situation in the region. Such a viewpoint, observers in Damascus point out, has a very serious foundation in view of the fact that the U.S.-Israeli agreement also provides for close coordination of action between the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean and the future Israeli naval strike force. The Arab peoples know all too well what that coordination might be.